

mations of the puerperium." It must be sent to the College of Physicians of Philadelphia before January 1st, 1898, addressed to Barton Cooke Hirst, M.D., typewritten, and distinguished by a motto, with the name of the writer, in a sealed envelope.

The "Virginia Medical Monthly" has, since April, 1896, become a semi-monthly, and has accordingly changed its name to "The Virginia Medical Semi-Monthly."

Miscellaneous.

HYPNOTIC CRIME.

The possibilities of post hypnotic suggestion would seem at first glance to open a wide field for criminal suggestion, but the evidence does not, I think, justify much apprehension on that score.

When the patient's consciousness is much disordinated by the suggestion, he is usually unable to co-ordinate himself to his environment, and is, of course, not fitted to do anything requiring alert mental powers, much less a crime. When the suggested idea expels inconsistent states, the case is almost as bad. Prof. Liegeois dissolved a white powder in water, and told Mme. C—, one of his patients, that it was arsenic. "I said to her: 'See M. D—, he is thirsty; he is always wanting something to drink; you will offer him this.' 'Yes, monsieur.' But D— asked a question which I had not foreseen; he asked what was in the glass proffered him. With a candor which set aside all thought of simulation, Mme. C— replied, 'It is arsenic.'" Clearly it would not do to intrust to Mme. C— the execution of a suggested crime.

Again, when the emergence of the posthypnotic suggestion does not affect the upper consciousness at all, but coalesces with it, it is apt, as I have already pointed out, to meet with resistance from the patient's habitual principles of conduct. Dr. De Jong reports that a little Jewish girl of ten, whom he found very suggestible, repeatedly obeyed his posthypnotic suggestion that she should steal a piece of money left lying upon the table, but one Saturday she disobeyed. When asked why, she said: "It is the Sabbath day; I cannot touch money." Another of his patients performed all manner of make-believe crimes at his suggestion, but, when he suggested something the performance of which would have shocked her modesty, she refused, and she refused also to betray a trivial secret which he had got his cook to confide to her.—From Posthypnotic and Criminal Suggestion, by Prof. W. R. Newbold, in "Appleton's Popular Science Monthly" for June.