

he thought degenerations following section of nerves were usually not inflammatory, and do not seem to have been such in this case, though on *à priori* grounds he did not see why they might not be of that character, seeing the important part the nervous system plays in inflammations generally.

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*Stated Meeting, June 14th, 1889.*

WM. GARDNER, M.D., PRESIDENT, IN THE CHAIR.

*Two Cases of Lead Poisoning.*—DR JAS. STEWART presented to the Society two patients from the Montreal General Hospital suffering from lead poisoning. He said they were both typical cases of chronic lead poisoning, and exhibited the usual symptoms—marked anæmia, emaciation and nervous symptoms, paralysis of the extensor muscles of the forearm being marked in each case. The particular interest attached to the cases was due to the modes by which the lead had been introduced into the system. In one case the patient was a workman in a shot tower and had inhaled the oxide of lead from the melted metal. His face, hands and other portions of his body were constantly blackened by the lead while at work. It would appear that in this case the lead was absorbed through the skin and lungs. The patient in the second case is a bar-tender, and habitually drank a number of bottles of cream soda every day. These bottles were stoppered by a metallic button, which, together with the soda-water, was analysed by Dr. Ruttan and found to contain lead.

DR. RUTTAN stated that his attention had been called to this case by Dr. Stewart, and that he obtained a number of bottles of soda-water stoppered by this particular contrivance, and had found the stoppers to be made of a solder, an alloy of tin and lead, and in every bottle of soda-water with these stoppers lead was found in solution. The bottles and stoppers were exhibited. The stopper consists of a metal button attached to a wire loop, which projects beyond the mouth, and so contrived that it does not drop into the bottle further than about half an inch when open. The button is fitted gas tight to the shoulder of the bottle by means of a rubber ring. These bottles, when filled with soda-water, are immediately inverted, so the liquid remains in constant contact with the lead and becomes impregnated. The carbonate of lead at first formed is probably taken up by the excess of carbonic acid and held in solution; but, besides this mode of solution, many samples of soda-water contain alkali as carbonate of soda, which aids the solution. He further said that he considered these stoppers to be very dangerous, and had written to the manufacturer informing him of the fact.