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prietor, J. R. Alexander, M. D., who claims to have reached at a bound the *ultima thule* of perfection in his trusses. Time will give this its proper status as it has every thing else in the past.

Mr. Gross, of Montreal, exhibited a fine collection of surgical instruments and appliances.

We have thus been at considerable pains to give a full account of the general proceedings with a notice of the several very creditable and expensive exhibits made by large manufacturing establishments, some of these being valued at several thousand dollars, and we trust the attention of the profession being thus drawn to what they have missed by not being present will cause the next convention, in Hamilton, to be more numerously attended by members of the profession.

Medical Items and News.

SINGULAR SOURCE OF LEAD POISONING. — A singular instance of lead poisoning, says the *Medical Times and Gazette*, is reported by Dr. Alford, Medical Officer of Health for Taunton, in his last annual report. The disease, as observed by him, was in most cases of a very marked character, the blue line on the gums, the colic, and other symptoms being unmistakable. The first cases that occurred were in an isolated farm-house. Repeated visits and analyses of water, preserves, etc., threw no light whatever on their origin, no lead being found. Then, in quick succession, a large number of fresh cases were reported in various houses, mostly isolated, several of which were very severe. They had all in common, it appeared, sent their corn to be ground at the same mill. Dr. Alford accordingly visited and inspected the mill, and the origin of all the mischief was at once apparent. On having the millstone raised, he found the surface of each stone honeycombed with lead. The millstone being of a loose nature, large spaces had occurred, which, of late, during the illness of the owner, had been filled up by pouring in quantities of molten lead. The first grinding of wheat after the "dressing" contained, no doubt, large quantities of the metal. Dr. Alford ordered the lead to be at once removed, but from what he heard this was by no means an uncommon method of repaired by the millstones. He considered it his duty, therefore, to report the matter fully, in order that the public might be made aware of a dangerous source of poisoning. There were about ten pounds of lead upon the surface of the millstone, and the actual cavities were all filled up with the same metal. — (*Ex. Clinic.*)

Ustilago Maidis, by which is meant the smut or "Ergot," of Indian Corn, has been employed for the same purposes as ergot of rye, and with reputed success. Considerable attention is bestowed on it in some quarters.

BILIOUS ATTACKS.—Dr. Fothergill (in *Medical Times*) says the treatment of bilious attacks to which dark-complexioned persons of the biliary diathesis are most subject: Rarely do persons of other diathesis and fair persons suffer from those disturbances which may fairly be said to be connected with the presence of bile acids in excess; while as to those forms of biliary disturbance where the urine is laden with lithates, the condition Dr. Murchison calls lithæmia, persons of other diathesis seem equally liable to them, and they are found in fair and dark people alike. For those bilious attacks, then, which occur chiefly in those of the bilious diathesis nothing is so good as alkaline saline purgatives taken in some vegetable infusion immediately on getting out of bed in the morning. This should be washed down with some warm fluid which excites the peristaltic action of the bowels, and, if necessary, a vegetable laxative pill should be taken the night before. After a couple of liquid motions—the more copious the better—the bilious person feels pretty equal to the day's work before him. Rochelle salts with a little sulphate of magnesium in infusion of buchu forms a most excellent morning purge, in my experience. Sir Joseph Fayrer has found in his Indian experience sulphate of magnesium, with quinine or gentian, sufficient to produce two or three loose motions, an efficient measure in biliary congestion. — *Southern Med. Record.*

TREPHINING THE TYMPANUM WITH SUCCESS FOR DEAFNESS.—Dr. Bonnafont, the well-known aurist, has just published the particulars of the above case, which had excited much interest here at the time the operation was performed. He trephined the tympanum a year ago in a young girl of twenty, who was suffering from deafness, which nothing could remove. She could hear the ticking of a watch when applied to the skull. The tympanum was perforated by means of a special trocar, and an accompanying cannula, provided with small wings, which could be pushed out *ad libitum*, was left in the tympanum. Restoration of hearing took place instantly. Twenty days after, symptoms of inflammation, swelling, and abscess showed themselves; but as they were confined to the middle and external ear, and as there was no headache or fever, poulticing and injections were ordered, and the cannula was left in its place. A month afterwards all these phenomena had disappeared, and the cannula fell out. It was then seen that the hole made by the trocar in the tympanum was perfect and unimpaired. The patient is now quite right and hears well. Dr. Bonnafont thinks that this is a great triumph in aural surgery, and that trephining of the tympanum will take the same rank and render the same service as removal of the cataract in eye surgery. — *Paris Letter to the Lancet*, July 28, 1877. — *The Clinic.*