

such sources of contamination. "Contamination of water," he says, "both hard and soft, impure and pure, by lead, is, in all parts of the kingdom, and, under every variety of circumstances, the cause or source of various obscure diseases of man (and also, doubtless, of the lower animals), of the nature specially of dyspepsia and colic. This proposition was abundantly proved by cases of minor diseases induced by lead contamination of various of the hard or impure waters of London."

There are numerous other vehicles besides water by which lead is introduced into the system, giving rise to symptoms of poisoning. Cider, beer, and wine sometimes become impregnated with lead by being conveyed through leaden pipes. According to Wilson, Sir George Baker, in his investigations with regard to the Devonshire colic, which formerly prevailed to a great extent, found that eighteen bottles of cider which he examined contained  $4\frac{1}{2}$  grains of lead, which arose from lead being employed in the construction of the cider troughs. A contributor to the *British Medical Journal*, February, 1874, has pointed out another source of lead-poisoning—viz: that of the metallic caps of bottles in which soda water and potassa water are sometimes kept. Confectionery is sometimes rendered poisonous by the preparations of lead used to color it.

Regarding prophylactics in lead-poisoning:—It has been suggested that, by employing some artificial protection to the skin of lead workers, the absorption of the poison might be prevented. The LANCET last year mentioned several cases of lead-poisoning which occurred at Chatham dockyard among workmen employed between the double bottoms of armor-plated ships, and stated that Dr. Jack, R.N., had recommended that each man employed in this kind of work should be provided with canvas suits to prevent the lead adhering to the clothes. Suspected cosmetics should be avoided, and washes containing salts of lead should not be used, even by medical men, when any other sort of lotion can be safely substituted. When the use of water from leaden supply pipes to the houses is unavoidable, the risk may be sometimes greatly obviated by rejecting the first portion drawn in the morning, or that which has been "standing" for a time in the pipes. Finally, the manufacture of certain foods and drinks might be subjected to a certain degree of inspection, with the view of preventing the employment of leaden vessels in their manufacture.

I will conclude this paper with a brief notice of an interesting case of lead-poisoning, given in the *Brit. Med. Jour.*, April 1875, as read by Dr. Dowse before the Clinical Society