

of all ilks are liable to the pernicious influence of lead, while led by the inspiration of their art, or the engagements of their occupations. How are we to obviate this? We may open our prescription book (infallible cloak for one's ignorance) and write out a formula for iodide of potassium, and, as we dry the nib on our pen-wiper, triumphantly say, there is the solution of the lead question. It certainly will render lead more soluble and eliminate it from the economy. But how much better never to let it enter in. This can readily be done (at least in the case of Paint Saturnism) by substituting oxide of zinc in their fabrication. The fact that oxide of zinc can be used instead of lead, although known to the profession, is not as well known as it deserves to be; and seems to me, to be more worthy of emphasis. As sanitarians, we inveigh against arsenical poisoning induced by wall-papers, &c., and quickly detect and reject the offending evil. Why are we not equally alive to the deliteriousness of lead poisoning harbored in paints. One of the largest dealers in paints in Boston has used oxide of zinc in place of lead and the result has been entirely satisfactory. Without wearying you with the relation of dry statistics and the tedious recital of cases, suffice it to say, that oxide of zinc is free from the poisonous effects of lead. It is cheaper; lasts longer; oxidizes quicker and mixes equally as well. A wholesome tang. With these healthy facts staring us in the face. Let the wholesome replace the unhealthy. Let us dethrone King Lead from the Kingdom of Paintdom, over which he has tyrannized so long, let us depose the tyrant, and let oxide of zinc reign in his stead. The pale-yellow color, so commonly seen in painters, the colic, drop wrist, constipation and other connoters of saturnine poisoning, will disappear; and the more rosy hue of the workers, and exuberant spirits, which are ever the accompaniments of health, will eloquently acclaim, the new regime.

The following inferences may be accent-

uated: (1) That lead is a prolific factor in disease, (2) that its removal from paints is praiseworthy, (3) that oxide of zinc is a desirable substitute.

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## Correspondence.

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*Editor CANADA MEDICAL RECORD.*

DEAR SIR,—

I would like you to insert the following experience I have lately had as it may be of interest to some of your readers.

I was attending a gentleman for tonsillitis, employing my favorite treatment of chlorate of potash and aconite, and under which he was progressing favorably, when one day on reading one of the six medical journals I receive, I noticed a lecture by Sir Morrell Mackenzie on tonsillitis, in which he strongly recommended guaiacum lozenges. I procured some and gave them to my patient with immediate relief to the soreness on swallowing.

A wealthy relative who called to see him saying that her own throat was sore received a half dozen of his lozenges to try, and she found them so satisfactory that she sent a long distance to get the prescription for them, which my patient could neither give her nor procure for her from the druggist. The result being that the said wealthy lady will have to come to me if she wants those lozenges.

This incident proves two things: That it pays to take several medical journals; and second, that for a young doctor at least, it is better not to give prescriptions.

This reminds me of a similar occurrence: A doctor noticed that a young female relative was very ill with anaemia and gave her a prescription to get a hundred Blund's pills. The effect was almost magical; so much so that some twenty or thirty of her lady friends suffering from the same symptoms obtained the prescription from her and were also cured. The only reward my