

of poisoning by this metal is the paralysis of the forearm known under the name of "wrist-drop." Then, again, various convulsive attacks are undoubtedly caused by lead poisoning, and it is well known that some patients who appear to be suffering entirely from epilepsy are in reality affected by Plumbism. A valuable article upon this latter condition has recently appear in an American contemporary. It describes a series of sixteen cases in which convulsions followed upon various forms of lead poisoning. The attacks came on earliest in children, and occurred, in many cases, long after the patient had been poisoned. It is proved that those who handle and mix chrome yellow are especially liable to the occurrence of brain and spinal nerve symptoms. For example, two bakers who used this colouring matter as a cake dye and eleven other people who ate the lead-dyed cakes were amongst those who suffered from convulsions. The point is well worth remembering, especially in the case of patients afflicted with epilepsy in whom there appears to be no hereditary predisposition to the disease.

#### STOMACH CONCRETIONS.

AMONGST hysterical patients it is by no means unusual to find various forms of morbid appetite, and to discover that they have a habit of eating grass, mould, or some equally indigestible article. An interesting case has recently been reported in which a patient—a girl of 19—had been in the habit for some years previously of biting off and swallowing pieces of her hair. Symptoms of obstruction and extreme stomach irritation led to an operation being performed and the stomach opened. This was then found to contain a hairy concretion, kidney-shaped, about five and a-quarter inches long by two inches wide, and very nearly five ounces in weight. The patient recovered well and quickly from the operation, but subsequently, whilst asleep, it was found that she made several attempts to draw her hair into her mouth. It is comparatively rare to find hair concretions in the stomach, because as a rule the fragments are easily passed onwards with the food. Amongst insane patients, of course, the greatest care should always be taken to prevent the swallowing of dangerous substances, and amongst those who die in asylum it is by no means uncommon to find that the stomach contains stones, pins and similar articles. The case to which reference has just been made shows the analogous importance of preventing hysterical patients from chewing and swallowing their hair.

## Reflections

FROM A BOARD ROOM MIRROR.



THE Proprietors of the *Provincial Medical Journal* have determined to discontinue its issue after December next; we are glad to hear, however, that its most able editor, Dr. Dolan of Halifax, who has such a kind appreciation of Nursing progress, will bring out and edit a paper under the title of *The Scalpel*, a monthly journal of medicine and surgery.

We are requested to mention that the offices of that most admirably managed and excellent Institution, the British Home for Incurables at Streatham, have been removed to No. 72, Cheapside, E. C.

The Santa Claus Society is in need of help and of more members. It is a Society which needs only to be better known in order to attract more to join in a Society which accomplishes good work in several fields. It collects Convalescent and Hospital letters for distribution among needy people; it distributes toys and garments among the sick patients in Hospitals, and gives coals, food and clothing to the poor. It is again to hold a doll-dressing competition, and a competition for cake and sweet-making. Full particulars of the Society, its report, and the competitions, can be obtained by sending two stamps to Miss J. Charles, Stormont, Highgate.

At St. Bartholomew's Hospital five scholarships have been awarded to students just entering upon their medical studies. The competition, which was held last week, on September 25 and following days, has resulted in the following awards: Scholarship of £75 in Biology and Physiology for students under 25 years of age.—C. S. Myers, B.A., Caius College, Cambridge. Scholarship of £75 in Chemistry and Physics, for students under 25 years of age.—J. S. Williamson. Scholarship of £150 in Biology, Chemistry, and Physics, for students under 20 years of age.—R. C. Bowden and R. H. Paramore (equal). Preliminary Scientific Exhibition of £50 in Biology, Chemistry, and Physics, for students under 20 years of age.—J. C. M. Bailey. The Jeaffreson Exhibition of £20 in Classics and Mathematics—H. A. Kellond-Knight.

The Health Committee of the London County Council, in co-operation with Lady Henry Somerset, a principal owner, is about to clear and rebuild the slums of Somers Town. The economy to the Council which will result from Lady Henry's co-operation is estimated at £12,500.

Mrs. Fraser, the widow of the late Bishop of Manchester, who died some time ago, bequeathed under her will, which was proved last week, all the residue of her estate which can legally be applied for charitable purposes in trust for various benefits to poor benefices in the diocese of Manchester. The amount available will probably be about £150,000.

We are delighted to hear that the Bazaar which was held on Friday and Saturday in Aberdeen for the District Nursing Association, has been such a brilliant success, and Miss Lumsden, the Lady Superintendent of the Children's Hospital, and Miss Armstrong, Superintendent of the Association, are much to be congratulated upon the result of their powers of organisation.

Much interest, prior to the opening ceremony, was centred in various gifts which had just arrived from Balmoral, the contribution to the bazaar of the Princess Louise, President

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)