ing interesting case, in which the symptoms of mental derangement disappeared as the patient recovered from the effects of lead poisoning:—

A. P., aged 50, married, admitted 17th March, 1871, suffering from monomania, with depressing visceral symptoms, and a fixed idea that people were whispering about her. General health very bad; complains of constant colic, constipation, and obscure pains in back and limbs. On examination, blue line marked on gums; extensors of wrist weak, but no dropping of the wrist. On enquiry, it was found that this woman, in her business, constantly handled white lead, and after so doing often took her meals without washing her hands. The drinking-water she had used was doubtful in character. Disregarding the insanity, she was immediately put under treatment for lead poisoning; and with this result, that in proportion as the blue line faded from the gums and her general health improved, she lost her hallucinations and made a rapid recovery, the improvement in her mental condition and the disappearance of her morbid fancies regularly keeping pace with the elimination of the poison from her system. This patient has since continued well.

As it does not happen that there are any symptoms of insanity in one out of a hundred cases of lead poisoning, it would have been instructive to have ascertained, if possible, what other co-operating condition there was in the above case. Had the woman any hereditary predisposition to insanity, or any other special neurosis? Why, in fact, was it that a cause which usually produces nothing more than mental depression in addition to its physical symptoms, produced actual insanity? The success which followed the proper treatment of lead poisoning shows how necessary it is to attend to the bodily conditions which may accompany mental disorders, and how much may sometimes be done by means skilfully used to cure the bodily disorder.

Effects of Fright on the Mind.

In the "Annales Médico-Psychol.," for July, 1871, Dr. B. de Boismont relates a curious incident in the history of the late siege of Paris, as illustrating the effects of fright or a profound shock on the mind.

In discussing some cases, related by American physicians, in which after recovery from severe illness the patients had

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no recollection of certain acts they peformed while ill, such, for instance, as in typhoid fever making a will and giving minute directions about it, he adds the following passage as a matter within his knowledge:—

"On July 14th last, about 1.45, a tremendous explosion resounded throughout Paris. The percussion cap manufactory at Vincennes exploded . . . . . In a house which contained fifty lunatics a curious fact was observed. The maniacal, melancholic, demented, and imbeciles all obeyed their instinct of self-preservation by hastening to look out for the safest place, and for several hours only thought of this terrible event. The projectiles, shells, &c., had struck the house in five places; the roof had been pierced by a shell which had not burst, and which had been put into some water; the necessary precautions were taken, and the asylum had to be watched because of the constantly recurring explosions. The next day a very intelligent lady, who had witnessed the whole affair, was found to have *no recollection whatever of the occurrence.* A great emotional disturbance may then, in a state of health, be effaced from the memory."

Diagnosis of General Paralysis.

Dr. Drouet, one of the staff of the new asylum for Paris, at Ville-Evrard, says that since the opening of the asylum in January, 1868, of the 1,400 patients admitted 159 have been cases of general paralysis, and he has written a paper on the difficulties of the diagnosis. He says that in 42 of the 159 there were errors of diagnosis.

He thinks that mistakes may arise in the following conditions:—

1. In certain cases of epilepsy, hysteria, and locomotor ataxy.
2. In some cases of mania, acute and chronic, simple or complicated, with ambitious ideas.
3. In dementia, simple or senile, with motor affections.
4. In some cases of general paralysis with lypemania, or ideas of persecution.
5. In a great number of cases of chronic alcoholism.

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