

and 145 it is a female. He claims that he has been able to foretell the sex of the child ninety-two times out of one hundred. It is evident that, if these results are reliable, they must be of the greatest importance in deciding a number of questions, such as to whether premature labor should be induced.

At a recent banquet, Sir Spencer Wells told a story from his personal experience as a young man, which has in it a lesson for the older men of to-day. He had been called in the absence of Dr. Braithwaite, the family physician, to see a girl whom he found lying insensible on the bed. Not knowing what to do, he gave some brandy-and-water. Dr. Braithwaite then arrived, and, after examining the case, ordered two teaspoonfuls more of the mixture, but as soon as he was alone with Wells, said, "It was very wrong to give her brandy-and-water. It is the first stage of some eruptive fever. But a teaspoonful won't make any difference, and it will show that I did not differ from you. If I had," he added with a kind smile, "perhaps they would not believe either of us." There was something in this way of treating a junior—so much good feeling mixed with so much knowledge of human nature—which so impressed the future Sir Spencer as to influence him in his consultations with his juniors.—*Medical Age*.

THE LADIES' TITTLE.—The *Medical Record* says: That popular abomination known as "Beef, Iron, and Wine," which is now sold so extensively, not only by druggists but by tradesmen of various kinds, deserves a little special attention from the medical profession. It is an agreeable mixture to the sight and taste: its name is a triple combination of seductive mononyms; while taken into the stomach it acts as a gentle "pick-up" to the worn and over-sensitive nerves of the ladies. It has in consequence become a popular if not fashionable tittle, and is indiscriminately used to an extent that is, we believe, not entirely free from danger. Every medical man knows that the amount of actual beef or food in these various preparations is insignificant, and that it is the wine, after all, that makes them liked, and that leads so many persons to purchase their second bottle.

There is no good reason why this mixture is allowed to be sold by those unlicensed to sell wines, and if the law supports the practice, it is the duty of physicians at least to try and lessen it. Inebriety can result from these tipples.

THE QUEEN AND THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

—We announced last week that Her Majesty had signified her intention of laying the foundation-stone of the new building about to be erected for examination purposes on the Thames Embankment. There will be a peculiar fitness in the performance of this royal function at the present conjuncture, because it will serve to mark with royal favor the endeavor of the Royal Colleges to achieve by self-help a large measure of that reform which has been denied to them by successive Parliaments. Looking to the history of medicine, it is manifest that the art of healing and the enterprise of its professors have uniformly owed more—far more—to royal favor than to parliamentary aid or patronage. The first English writer on medicine was Richardus Anglicus, who flourished at Oxford about 1230; but contemporary with him, dying in 1241, was Nicolas de Ferucham, and this physician King Henry III. called to his court and made his domestic counsellor, with a large salary. From that time down to the present year of grace, the most distinguished physicians and surgeons of the day have almost uniformly been employed by the Sovereign, and practised under royal favor. We all know how much the illustrious Harvey owed to the encouragement extended to him by Charles I., who was personally interested in some of his experiments. Since the days of Linacre, who was successively physician to Henry VII., Henry VIII., Edward VI., and the Princess Mary, and who, with the aid of Cardinal Wolsey, and by favour of Henry VIII., in 1518, founded the College of Physicians, that body has enjoyed royal favor, and now, when its President is the favored physician of Victoria, Queen of these realms, in 1886, there is an especial interest, which the whole profession will feel, in the august commencement of new and appropriate buildings for the use of the joint colleges. We trust no pains will be spared to make the occasion worthy of its significance and place in the annals of English Medicine.—*Lancet*.