

than in others, for in the wine-growing districts drunkenness is less prevalent than in those where the consumption of alcohol is relatively considerable.

"DOCTORS' ORDERS."—"Doctors' orders" are too often looked upon by the laity as arbitrary enactments of professional p-dantry, which your true Briton shows "the freedom that runs in his blood" by defying or evading. Nor is this absurdity confined to the ignorant, for one often hears people who should know better boasting of their deliberate neglect of advice which they have paid a big fee to obtain. The moral which we wish to enforce has lately been pointed by a case which occurred in the London Hospital in a manner which we hope will bring it home, at least in some measure, to the public mind. A man suffering from typhoid had some grapes secretly given him by a friend, whom he asked to procure them for him. He became worse soon after eating them, and in three days he died from perforation of the intestine. The coroner trusted that the public would take warning by the case, and all medical officers of hospitals and nurses will, for the sake of their own comfort if from no higher feeling, fervently echo the wish. Melancholy and constantly repeated experience makes them dread "visiting days," as almost inevitably followed by general rise of temperature throughout the ward, and too often by intestinal disturbances of one kind or another. It is hardly to be wondered at that fruit, and even food, should be smuggled in by sympathetic relatives, for in convalescence from acute ailments the appetite is often ravenous almost beyond belief. This is naturally hailed by the friends as a sign of returning health, and it seems hard to withhold the food which is so eagerly craved for. It cannot be too widely known that, in typhoid fever especially, what is wanted before everything is rest for the ulcerated intestine, and unexpected death when everything seemed to promise speedy recovery has often been due to the clamorous hunger of the patient overthrowing the judgment of the medical attendant. If this can happen even to well-informed professional men, it is a

thousand times more likely to occur to persons who have no knowledge of the patient's real condition, and only see his suffering. There is probably not a hospital in the kingdom in which relapses and disasters due to the ignorance of well meaning friends are not of frequent occurrence.

URALIUM, A NEW HYPNOTIC.—Dr. G. Poppe, of Bologna, recently presented the Medico-Chirurgical Society, of that city, with a monograph on uralium, a new hypnotic, being a composition of chloral and urethan. Poppe claims that it is both safe and efficient, and strongly recommends it in cases of insomnia of hysterical origin or cardiac trouble.—*Gaz. degli Ospitali; Med. News*, May 25.

THE DANGERS OF CARBOLIC ACID.—The following letter of Dr. Th. Billroth, of Vienna, has been published: "I have lately seen four cases, in which fingers which had suffered a most insignificant injury became gangrenous through the uncalled-for application of carbolic acid. Carbolic acid is now much less used in surgery than formerly: we have only gradually become acquainted with its dangers. The acid may not only cause inflammation and gangrene, but also blood poisoning; and so may even prove fatal. It is useful only in the hands of a skillful surgeon, and ought never to be used without his advice. The best lotion for recent injuries is the ordinary lead lotion, which can be bought at any chemist's. The best antidote in carbolic acid poisoning is soap, which should be taken immediately and repeatedly until all symptoms of poisoning have disappeared."—*London Lancet*.

ADULTERATION OF MEDICINES.—The subject of food adulteration is one that is receiving daily attention from the most renowned scientists, pages are devoted to the subject in some of our most prominent magazines, the press generally is studying the matter, while practically all men are apt to regard some of the food products they daily consume with a certain amount of suspicion. The adulteration of medicinal products is a matter of kindred importance. It is a matter affect-