

advocate the ingestion of a small quantity of alcohol in the form of a glass of claret with the patient's heaviest meal. Of recent years I have used one or more of the various preparations of wine of coca, as it seemed to me the tonic and stimulating effects of the coca on the nervous system, together with the gastric stimulation from the small quantity of alcohol, had generally a more beneficial effect than claret alone. More recently I have used maltine with coca wine. Here the maltine, which contains diastase, materially aids in the digestion of the starchy foods, while the small quantity of alcohol it contains stimulates the secretion of gastric juice and thus assists in the digestion of the nitrogenous substance. On the other hand, the coca acts as a mild tonic and stimulant to the nervous system, diminishing the irritability and despondency and promoting the gradual restoration of nervous strength. Maltine with coca wine is a preparation agreeable to the palate, is a food in itself, assists in the digestion of starchy and nitrogenous foods, and is also a useful tonic to the nervous system. In this form moderate quantities of alcohol can be administered to the best advantage. — *Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease.*

THE PERILS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF PRACTICE.—A curious tale which comes from Leeds not only draws attention to certain dangers to which doctors are especially exposed at the hands of angry and excited people, but suggests the propriety of thinking twice before speaking too openly of the ailments of their patients. Nothing can be easier than to beguile a doctor into a house in which he may be absolutely at the mercy of any ruffians who choose to maltreat him, and whatever may have been the provocation received in this case by the defendant, we are glad that the stipendiary-magistrate refused to consider it as an excuse, but imposed a fine of £3 and costs. It appears that a dentist, who was attending a young lady for her teeth, called upon her doctor and made particular inquiries regarding her health. It further appears that this unfortunate doctor, in response to these inquiries, "made a certain statement concerning her condition." *Hinc ille lacrymæ!* The young lady's young man straightway beguiled him into her house, and after by threats inducing the doctor to give a written apology, said, "I shall thrash you all the same," and proceeded to do so. This may be a Yorkshire way of doing things, but it strikes us as unfair. We say nothing about the truth of the statement he is said to have made, but it is clear that a doctor often has to say unpleasant things, and the chance of having to risk ordeal by combat for so doing is decidedly one of the perils of practice. As to responsibilities, we would seriously ask

whether medical men do not often talk far too much about their cases. Doubtless, the long hours sometimes spent in sick rooms, or the still more dreary hours spent while waiting to be called there, tempt men, from mere want of subjects for conversation, to draw on their personal experiences; but it should not be so; patients' cases should never be talked about. Then in regard to consultations, we think that unless one is asked by the patient to consult, the greatest reticence should be maintained. It ought not to be difficult to give such advice as may be for the good of the patient without entering into reasons or breaking confidence. Even in case of insurance companies and the extraordinary questions they sometimes ask, it is desirable to find out from the individual concerned that they are asked with his consent before committing oneself. The more strictly medical men put restraint upon their tongues and treat everything that is told them professionally, whether good or evil, as confidential, the more readily will they check that impertinent questioning about other people's affairs which is one of the never-ending nuisances of a doctor's life.—*Brit. Med. Jour.*

THE TREATMENT OF FURUNCULOSIS.—Van Hoorn, *Monatsh. f. prakt. Derm.*, treats furunculosis as follows: He first washes the whole of the patient's body with potash soap and tepid water; then he aseptifies the boils and the surrounding parts with a 1 in 1,000 sublimate solution, afterwards covering them with a mercurial and phenol plaster, which is changed every day. If the furuncles burst, the contents are squeezed out and the cavity washed with sublimate. The results are excellent. If there was no fluctuation in the furuncles, absorption takes place very quickly. If there was fluctuation, absorption is rare, but the disease does not spread; the boil opens and rapidly cicatrizes. During the treatment no further boils developed.—Loewenberg (*Bull. Méd. Jour. Cut. and Gen.-Urin. Dis.*, October, 1894) recommends the use of the actual cautery for the abortive treatment of boil. For this purpose he employs galvano-cautery irons ending in fine platinum points about a centimetre long and a millimetre in diameter. As soon as a furuncle shows its presence by a red areola surrounding a hair and by special sensitiveness to touch, he introduces the platinum point, brought to a white heat, into the centre of the areola, causing it to penetrate deep enough to act upon the whole length of the hair follicle, in the supposed course of which it is made to enter. The incandescent point is left for an instant in position and then withdrawn. When the furuncle has already begun to form we may still attempt to abort it; but we must in this case prolong the cautery so as completely to carbonize the small drop of pus which has already been pro-