

CYCLING IN PARIS.—A Paris correspondent of the *Medical Record* writes that there are over one hundred thousand cyclists in that city, and that nearly all the leading physicians ride, next come the lawyers, then the deputies, officers and even the Institute; the family physician prescribes the exercise as the most health-giving ever devised.

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GIVE THE PATIENT A CANDID OPINION.—A lay correspondent in a late number of the *Brit. Med. Jour.* wrote a letter taking medical men to task who do not give a truthful opinion in stating their prognoses. In an editorial comment in a subsequent issue, the same journal wisely says: "When a person having already some forebodings of evil asks the physician to tell him the truth, it is the custom of all experienced medical men to tell the truth gently but clearly, tempering the communication with such allusions to any aspects of doubt and the fallibility of human prediction as may alleviate the hardness of the sentence."

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BISMARCK'S HEAD.—The head of this "Old Man of Iron" seems still to be, as it has long been, a puzzle to scientists, to civilians, to crowned heads and to the French nation in particular. Herr Ammon has measured him, from a bust taken by Professor Schafer, and measuring over his hair, of which he has a respectable remnant, pronounces him "long headed." On the other hand Virchow measuring the skull below his hair, pronounces him "mesocephalus." Kaiser William in his life-time, and later, William his successor, and in fact, most of the crowned heads of Europe have had occasions to measure the *inside* of his head a good many times, and they all agree in pronouncing him Bismarck.—*North American Practitioner.*

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DISPENSING.—Dispensing by country practitioners has always been a matter of necessity rather than that of convenience. For a similar reason it has been the custom for physicians in small towns to lay claim to the proprietorship of the local drug store. The personal handling of drugs and medicines has thus proved a valuable, as well as useful, educator for those who have spent the whole of their professional lives practising in the country or small towns. The physical knowledge of the tools they have worked with could not possibly have been obtained in any other way. Often the creation of a little laboratory with these tools in hand has proved a stimulus to make the best and most practical physicians.—*The West Virginian Journal of Medicine and Surgery*