extravagant claims of the charlatans, are made parties to the suit when such is brought. According to the German law a charlatan is liable to prosecution if his promises to cure the patient delude the latter until the time is past when scientific medical or surgical aid might have been effective.

The Contract Practice Trouble in Germany.—The Berlin medical press urges reflection and moderation in the matter of the impending modification of the legislation in regard to sickness insurance, and warns against the possible consequences of such a serious step as a general strike of the contract doctors, referred to on p. 1,229 of our last issue. The newsy "Allg. Med. Ct.-Zttf." refrains from discussing the subject, and the "Deutsche Med. Wochenschrift" hints that more can be accomplished by moral suasion in the proper quarters than by the belligerent spirit manifested in southern Germany. It bids the profession ponder the saying "respice finem" (look to the end). A lay cablegram brings word that a duel with broadswords has recently taken place at Gera between a factory proprietor and a physician, Dr. Hirsch, said to be a former army officer. It states that the feeling of bitterness on account of the local physicians' strike is rather increasing, with no signs of compromise on either side.

Prophylaxis of Ankylostomiasis in Germany.—A conference to discuss the means of preventing the spread of miners' disease was held recently at Berlin, summoned by the government. The importance of prompt and repeated medical inspection and treatment was emphasized, and a law to check the removal of miners from one part of the country to another was advocated, prohibiting mine owners from employing newcomers until after they have undergone a searching physical examination. It was stated that disinfection with lime, salt, carbolic acid and other substances had not proved satisfactory, but that a thorough drying out of the affected mine for a long period had proved especially effective. The temporary substitution of dry for wet methods of mining was, therefore, advocated for certain mines. In treatment, the extract of fern was said to be effective in killing the parasite, but recurrence is possible, consequently the subjects should be examined afterward and supplementary courses instituted as needed. Hospital treatment is necessary.

Damage Suit for Inoculation of Malaria.—A medical journal published at Rome, "Il Policlinico," contained an article not long ago in which a physician described his successful inoculation of an elderly man with malaria in order to demonstrate a certain theory. The man had been in the hospital a number of years for an incurable nervous affection. The experiment was so successful that the malarial fever induced nearly proved fatal. The public authorities brought suit against the physician for voluntarily injuring the patient, and the suit was dismissed with a reprimand only because the subject of the experiment himself did not enter any complaint. The physician, in his defense, stated that his motive had been solely in the interests of science and the welfare of suffering humanity, and that such experiments had frequently been made in other countries. Galli describes the particulars of the suit in a recent letter to the "Muenchener Med. Wochenschrift," but does not mention the physician's name. The case is probably the same as that mentioned in THE JOURNAL in another column, p. 1,332, paragraph 53.

Medical Women in Russia.—On Feb. 20, 1903, was celebrated in Russia the twenty-fifth anniversary of the graduation of women physicians in Russia. On that date in 1878, 40 women had graduated and 20 more soon followed on their return from service in the Turko-Russian war. Dworetzky writes to the "Muenchener Med. Wochenschrift" describing the cordial welcome and facilities offered by the profession in Russia to medical women. More than forty years ago they were admitted free to the university lectures at St. Petersburg, Charkow, Kiev and Odessa, and were excluded from Moscow and Dorpat only on account of political uprisings at the time. They were admitted to the regular medical course in 1872, and finally in 1897 the Woman's Medical Institute at St. Petersburg was opened for them and is now taxed to its fullest capacity. Subscriptions poured in from all sides for this institute as the value of medical women for Russia is appreciated by physicians and laymen alike. They are especially needed among the Mohammedan women, who are not allowed to consult male physicians. Among others, the emir of Bokhara contributed largely to the institute. It has now 1,314 students, and 111 graduated last year. There are 35 professors and certain branches of medicine are taught here which are not yet in the curriculum of other Russian medical colleges. Twenty-four scholarships have been endowed and the minister of public instruction has applied to

the authorities for permission to place the institute on the same footing as the other university medical colleges. Russian medical women have always, Dworetzky adds, held high the standard of the profession and served with conscientious and loyal devotion to duty. Their work is prolific of results among the poverty-stricken and ignorant peasants to whom they bring the light of civilization, as well as medical aid. Lewschin's new Cancer Research Institute at Moscow expressly states in its by-laws that medical women may be appointed to any post in the institution.

Advertisement as a Weapon Against Quacks.—Professor Folet of Lille publishes a strong article in the "ECHO Med. du Nord" of April 19, entitled "Réclame contre Réclame." He has long contended that the best way to fight alcoholism and quacks is by way of publicity—advertising. Last February the Paris authorities posted the city with placards warning against the abuse of alcohol, and he states that it was like stirring up an ants' nest. Every liquor dealer, wholesale or retail, was up in arms at once, and yet the publicity was of the mildest form. He suggests that great good might be accomplished if the recent resolutions voted by the Académie de Médecine in regard to the dangers of liqueurs and alcohol were placarded, signed by the Académie. He would like to see such a measure perseveringly carried out with money behind it for an effective advertising campaign. He also suggests "An Appeal to Common Sense," to be published in the newspapers as a "display ad" among the various cure-alls, warning the public that a moment's reflection will show that it is impossible for a single remedy to be suitable for all kinds of diseases, all ages, sexes and temperaments; that the testimonials and photographs of persons cured, even if genuine, say nothing of the others who have not been cured or whose condition has been aggravated by these vaunted panaceas. The dupes say nothing and do not count, but nearly every physician might cite examples of such experiences. If an appeal of this nature were signed by several well-known names or by a local or national medical association, the public could not fail to be impressed sooner or later by persistent advertising of this sort. The medical mayor of Lyons has banished from public places under his jurisdiction the ads of venereal specialists, but Folet comments that a circular might have been placarded beside them warning against the consequences of venereal disease unless thoroughly and scientifically treated and giving notice of free consultations for the poor at certain places and hours. If wise councils and appeals to common sense were encountered on every hand, signed by persons whom the public has reason to respect, and such warnings were trumpeted far and near, fighting charlatans with their own weapon, he thinks the results would at least justify the attempt. The same number of the "ECHO" contains a monograph on "Means of Repressing Quackery, from the Legal Standpoint." The conclusions are not encouraging for physicians.

Correspondence.

Cocoanuts for Worms.

MALDEN, MASS., April 27, 1903.

To the Editor:—In THE JOURNAL, April 4, 1903, is a query as to the value of cocoanut in the destruction of tapeworms. Having repeatedly seen statements in reliable medical publications asserting its value, I gave it a trial in two cases. The first case was prepared by a laxative of compound licorice powder followed by an aperient water; the patient was then kept on an exclusive diet of cocoanut and water for two days. On the morning of the third day a dose of castor oil brought away most of the worm. The patient was given cocoanut freely every day for a month with the hope that if the head remained in the intestine that the diet would be so unsuited to it that it would be easily swept out by the weekly laxatives which were advised. Joints of the worm reappeared after the usual period. In the second case the bowels were kept open and cocoanut was given as a prominent part of the diet for two weeks. Oleoresin of male fern 3iss, followed by salines, then removed so much of the worm that it seemed probable the head had passed and been overlooked. The treatment failed, although the patient partook freely of cocoanuts every day for four or five weeks following the administration of the fern. Possibly a different method of giving the remedy would prove successful, but I have nowhere seen a definite course laid

out for this treatment. These cases occurred in men in middle life, and were afterward cured by male fern given after the usual preparation of the patient. A. J. STEVENS, M.D.

Claudius Method of Preparing Catgut.

OAKLAND, CAL., April 23, 1903.

To the Editor:—After giving a faithful trial to the Claudius method of preparing gut according to the article of Senn in your issue of April 4, I find the gut worthless and brittle and absolutely dangerous to use; it also stains the fingers and is too elastic. One good point it has in its favor, the infected gut gave no growth on bouillon after eight days' immersion in the iodine solution.

M. LEWIS EMERSON, M.D.

CHICAGO, May 1, 1903.

To the Editor:—The above failure is not due to the preparation of the catgut, but was the result of inferior catgut. We have had the same experience with inferior material, but with good catgut the result has always been ideal. In fact, the tensile strength has been greatly increased.

EMANUEL J. SENN, M.D.

Medical Organization.

The New York State Medical Association.

County associations have recently been formed in the counties of Allegany, Lewis, Monroe, Tompkins and Wayne and there are several others which are about to be organized.

Henry County (Ala.) Medical Society.

At a meeting of this society held in Dothan, April 7, the members residing in Houston County withdrew and the society was reorganized, with Dr. Thomas J. Kennedy, Halesburg, president.

Clay County (Neb.) Medical Society.

The medical fraternity of the county met at Clay Center, April 20, at which a medical society was organized, with the following officers: President, Dr. O. P. Shoemaker, Clay Center; vice-president, Dr. John W. Thompson, Sutton; secretary, Dr. Adam R. Ray, Fairfield, and treasurer, Dr. Fordyce H. McCabe, Fairfield.

Houston County (Ala.) Medical Society.

On May 7, the physicians residing in Houston County who withdrew from the Henry County Medical Society, met at Dothan, and organized a county society with Dr. John R. G. Howell, president; Dr. Henry Green, secretary; Dr. James L. Ellis, treasurer, and Dr. Mercer S. Davie, Jr., county health officer, all of Dothan.

Clinton County (Ohio) Medical Society.

This society met, April 29, at Wilmington, adopted the constitution recommended by the American Medical Association for county societies, and continued the following officers until the annual meeting in December: Dr. Allen T. Quinn, president; Dr. Eldorado Briggs, secretary, and Dr. George W. Wire, treasurer, all of Wilmington.

Madison County (Ill.) Medical Society.

The county organization was perfected at Alton, April 23, by the election of the officers of the Alton Medical Society to serve as officers for the county society for the remainder of the year. These officers are: Dr. Frank Worden, North Alton, president; Dr. Waldo Fisher, Alton, vice-president; Dr. George E. Wilkinson, Alton, corresponding secretary; Dr. Homer W. Davis, Alton, recording secretary, and Dr. Westley W. Halliburton, Alton, treasurer.

Allegany County (N. Y.) Medical Association.

The physicians of Allegany County met at Belmont recently and organized a county association, to be in affiliation with the New York State Medical Association, with an initial membership of 21. The officers elected are as follows: President, Dr. George H. Witter, Wellsville; vice-president, Dr. William O.

Congdon, Cuba, and secretary and treasurer, Dr. Horace L. Hulett, Allentown. Dr. Charles M. Post, Alfred, and Nathaniel H. Fuller, Friendship, were elected delegates to the state association.

Societies.

COMING MEETINGS.

American Academy of Medicine, Washington, D. C., May 11-12.
American Therapeutic Society, Washington, D. C., May 11-13.
Oklahoma Territorial Medical Association, Guthrie, May 12.
American Association of Genito-Urinary Surgeons, Washington, D. C., May 12-14.
American Dermatological Association, Washington, D. C., May 12-14.
American Surgical Association, Washington, D. C., May 12-14.
American Orthopedic Association, Washington, D. C., May 12-14.
American Pediatric Society, Washington, D. C., May 12-14.
Association of American Physicians, Washington, D. C., May 12-14.
American Medico-Psychological Association, Washington, D. C., May 12-15.
American Ophthalmological Association, Washington, D. C., May 13-14.
Association of Military Surgeons of the United States, Boston, May 19-21.
New Hampshire Medical Society, Concord, May 21-22.
North Dakota State Medical Society, Bismarck, May 21-22.
South Dakota State Medical Society, Mitchell, May 27-28.
Connecticut Medical Society, Hartford, May 27-28.
West Virginia State Medical Association, Charleston, May 26-28.
Indian Territory Medical Association, South McAlester, June 2-3.
Medical Society of the State of North Carolina, Hot Springs, June 2.
Ohio State Medical Society, Dayton, June 3-5.
Rhode Island Medical Society, Providence, June 4.
Wisconsin State Medical Society, Milwaukee, June 3-5.
Maine Medical Association, Portland, June 3-5.
Indiana State Medical Society, Richmond, June 4-5.
Medical Society of Delaware, Dover, June 9.
Massachusetts Medical Society, Boston, June 9-10.
Michigan State Medical Society, Detroit, June 11-12.
Minnesota State Medical Society, St. Paul, June 17.
Medical Association of Montana, Helena, June 17-18.
Medical Society of New Jersey, Asbury Park, June 23-25.

Columbia (S. C.) Medical Society.—At the regular meeting, April 6, Dr. Lawrence B. Owens was elected president; Dr. D. Strother Pope, vice-president, and Dr. Mary R. Baker, secretary-treasurer.

Louisville Medical and Surgical Society.—This society was organized April 20, with Dr. R. Lindsay Ireland, president; Dr. Frank J. Kiefer, vice-president; Dr. Harry A. Davidson, secretary, and Dr. W. Jennings, treasurer.

American Medico-Psychological Association.—This association, formerly known as the Association of Medical Superintendents of American Institutions for the Insane, will hold its fifty-ninth annual meeting in Washington, May 12, 13, 14 and 15.

South Idaho District Medical Association.—At the annual meeting held at Boise, April 8 and 9, Dr. Lewis C. Bowers, Boise, was elected president; Dr. J. S. Stewart, Boise, vice-president, and Dr. Hubert A. Castle, Pocatello, secretary-treasurer.

Hampden District (Mass.) Medical Society.—The annual meeting was held in Springfield, Mass., April 21. Dr. James W. Hannum, Ludlow, was elected president; Dr. Angelo O. Squier, Springfield, president, and Dr. James E. Marsh, Springfield, secretary and treasurer.

Whiteside County (Ill.) Medical Society.—At the annual meeting held in Morrison, April 15, Dr. James A. Nowlen, Morrison, was elected president; Dr. Charles E. Parker, Sterling, vice-president; Dr. Perry F. Purdue, Lyndon, secretary, and Dr. John F. Keefer, Sterling, treasurer.

Cecil County (Md.) Medical Society.—The annual meeting was held at Elkton, April 16, and the following officers were elected: Dr. David L. Gifford, Zion, president; Dr. George M. Stump, Perryville, vice-president; Dr. Howard Bratton, Elkton, secretary, and Dr. John H. Jamar, Elkton, treasurer.

Northeast Missouri Medical Association.—At the annual meeting held in Memphis, April 14, Dr. Frank B. Hiller, Kahoka, was elected president; Dr. James B. Bridges, Downing, vice-president, and Dr. E. E. Parrish, Memphis, secretary-treasurer. The next meeting will be held in Kahoka, in October.

Brainerd District (Ill.) Medical Society.—The annual meeting was held in Lincoln, April 23. Dr. Algernon M. Sargent, Lincoln, was elected president; Dr. Irving Newcomer, Petersburg, vice-president; Dr. Harry S. Oyler, Lincoln, secretary; Dr.