

The second case was in a man aged 58, labourer, who, for over a year previous to coming under observation, was unable to work on account of a severe pain in the course of the left sciatic and anterior crural. It is five years since the pain first troubled him, and it has been steadily increasing in severity in spite of the use of various remedies. On the 4th of October last his left sciatic was stretched, with antiseptic precautions. The wound was found united on the tenth day after the operation. The result in this case is not so satisfactory as in the previous one. He still suffers, but nothing in comparison to his former trials. He is quite able to work.

The third case was that of a man aged 23, who, for two years, has been afflicted with a most severe and rebellious form of sciatica. The employment of the usual remedies recommended in these cases had little or no effect in even mitigating the severity of the paroxysms. The left sciatic was stretched on the 28th of March last. The operation was one of much more than usual difficulty, on account of the nerve dividing after its exit from the pelvis, and the close adhesion which one of the branches (the anterior one) had formed to the surrounding tissues. Both branches were stretched. The wound healed in two weeks. It is now nearly six months since the operation was performed in this case, and as he has remained free from pain during all this time, he may be considered cured.

The fourth case is where stretching was resorted to for the relief of a painful stump. The patient, a man 70 years of age, had his left leg amputated three inches below the knee-joint five years ago. He says he has never been free from pain in the stump since that time. He is often unable to sleep at night on account of its severity. Two weeks ago his left sciatic, which was of an unusual size, was stretched. For a few days following the operation he experienced no relief, but during the last week the pains have almost ceased. It remains to be seen whether the relief will be permanent or not.

It is to the great kindness of my friends Drs. Mackid of Lucknow and Gun of Durham that I had the privilege of seeing and operating on the third and fourth cases.