

indicated, and the needle plunged boldly in close to the point of the nail. The pressure of the finger seems to deaden the sensibility of the skin, and the finger serves as a guide to prevent puncture of the rib. By way of preface to the patient, it is rarely necessary to say more than "Do you mind a prick?" and almost before the answer "Oh, no" is completed, the whole operation is over. Often I have been asked when I was going to begin, when I had already finished. The needle should be withdrawn rapidly, the finger being pressed against the skin close to it. Any long preface or display of instruments is to be avoided; for even a moment's apprehension may be prejudicial to a nervous patient; and the small size of the instrument is in this respect a great advantage.—*Lancet*.

**Compression of the Common Iliac.**—In amputation at the hip-joint, the prevention of hemorrhage is of the greatest moment. Mr. Davy, of the Westminster Hospital is the deviser of an ingenious plan, which he again calls attention to in the *British Medical Journal*. It is that of making pressure upon the common iliac artery by means of what he calls a lever passed up the rectum. This instrument he describes as follows:—"The lever is turned out of ebony, and varies in length from eighteen to twenty-two inches. Its surface is very smooth and polished, and its ends are rounded off much like the finger-tips. The maximum transverse diameter is five-eighths of an inch. The rectal end is graduated to an inch scale, so that the surgeon who applies the lever can at once learn whereabouts may be the end of the rod." Mr. D. details ten cases in which it had been used, with the surprising result of only sixteen and one-fourth ounces blood lost in all put together. The writer says:—"I commend this simple method of restraining hemorrhage to the notice of operating surgeons as safe, reliable and effectual. Its future is by no means limited to amputations at the hip, but is applicable to all surgical procedures where it is desirable to check *pro tempore* the blood-current through the aorta or iliac arteries."