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AN ACCOUNT OF THREE CASES OF SCIATICA AND ONE OF PAINFUL STUMP TREATED BY NERVE-STRETCHING.

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J. S., joiner, aged 38, when first seen in February, 1881, complained of having suffered severely from a pain in the course of the left sciatic nerve for four years. For a period of six months prior to coming under observation, he suffered so much, especially when standing, that he was unable to do any work. He has a markedly neurotic family history. He has been much exposed, and it is to "cold" contracted in roofing buildings that he attributes his present troubles. He complains of great tenderness when pressure is made over the course of the sciatic in the upper part of the thigh. He has been treated by the hypodermic injection of morphia, by blisters, by the internal use of turpentine, etc. None of the above means having any permanent influence over the severity of the pain, it was decided to stretch the nerve. This operation was performed on the 19th of January, 1881, with antiseptic precautions. On removing the dressings eight days afterwards, the wound was found united throughout. The result in this case has been very satisfactory. The pain which formerly troubled with such severity that he was unable to work, seldom afflicts him now, and then only in a mild degree. He is able to attend his work without any inconvenience.