

man in charge assured me that in practised hands the method had been very successful. Cunningham employs rectal anæsthesia in all operations upon the head and neck.

#### AN ANALYSIS OF SEVENTY-ONE CASES OF FATAL SCARLET FEVER.

JOHN McCRAE, M.B., read the paper of the evening.

H. A. LAFLEUR, M.D.—I would like to ask Dr. McCrae about the condition of hepatitis, which seems rather a new thing. He spoke of it as being analogous to acute yellow atrophy of the liver, I would like to ask him if these cases were at all jaundiced, and whether the liver went on to atrophy after an apparent period of enlargement.

J. R. SPIER, M.D.—I must congratulate Dr. McCrae on the excellent series of cases he has presented to us to-night. I quite agree with him in all he has said in regard to the futility of any of our modern methods of treatment in our results in these cases. As regards the fulminant cases, of which he has not had very many, I have seen perhaps one or two dozen during the epidemic of 1893-95, death occurring in the 24 hours with a temperature of 108 and 109. All methods of reducing the temperature were tried, ice baths, spongings, even to bleeding, with apparently no result, the patient dying of paralysis of the respiratory centres. Dr. McCrae's picture of severe scarlet fever and the conditions of the mouth is an absolutely vivid one and in the treatment of this condition one cannot, I think, emphasize too much the usefulness of thorough cleansing. In my experience I have certainly found great benefit from the use of hydrogen peroxide, half and half, freely used to both nose and throat, and I think we got some advantage from the local application of fairly strong solutions of iron, not so strong but that it can be applied by giving it internally. That and the free use of strychnine I think comprises practically the only useful methods I have found in combating what the doctor terms severe scarlet fever. I am inclined to differ with him slightly in the value of antistreptococcic serum. When I had my large series of the severe form I did not have the opportunity of using this serum, but in the few I have used it on since I think I have got considerable benefit. Once the general septicæmia has set in I cannot see that there is any hope for the patient. I quite agree also with Dr. McCrae in his statement that the wards should be thoroughly disinfected and that frequently. I have not the faintest doubt that many of our cases that are sent in as mild cases and which take on the severe form have been reinfected from the ward contagion.

DR. HART.—In the course of a large country practice I have been through two epidemics of scarlet fever, and I would like to give an experience which occurred to me during the last one:—The case was that of a boy, nine years of age, who got up in the morning apparently per-