

used, but all the relief I could get was from hypodermics of morphia, and I had to take from three to four per day to make living endurable, when I thought the plaster jacket might give me support and relief, and without the aid of anyone I applied a jacket to myself by standing in the position most comfortable, (which was perfectly erect). As soon as the plaster set, I could go around without any pain, and I stopped the morphia then and there, which had got to be considerable, and had no more pain. In less than three months I was perfectly well, and had gained more than thirty pounds, and used no other remedy than the jacket.

CASE 2.—In December, 1883, S. H., aged 19, spare build, came to me, suffering intense pain in the lumbar region and down course of both sciatic nerves. At times the pain was so severe that he would shake as though he had an ague chill. He stated that in September of same year, while making hay, he was helping to put a hay ladder upon the waggon, when the one that was helping him let his hold slip, and all the weight came on him. He sprained the muscles of his back, which grew worse and worse, and, as he stated when I first saw him, he did not want to live the way he was, and as he had already passed through the hands of about three doctors, all regulars, I took it for granted they had used all the usual remedies, so I thought I would try the plaster jacket, and I did so, with the same happy result, no more pain and a rapid convalescence.

OVARIOTOMY IN ENGLAND.—In these days, when continental journals vie with each other in publishing disagreeable remarks about England, it is pleasant to find how, on the other hand, writers in the United States are almost unanimous in sounding praises of our government, our institutions, our towns, our country, and our surgery. *Harpers' Monthly* has just discovered beauties of landscape in the Regent's canal, whilst, in the *Atlanta Medical and Surgical Journal*, the distinguished Dr. Robert Battey devotes an article to a subject which has been looked upon with more pride and interest than that useful waterway by qualified and unqualified Britons, namely, the progress of ovariectomy. The extraordinary results which have been obtained in Great Britain within the past three years, seventy-three consecutive operations in the hands of one surgeon, and seventy-six in the hands of another, without a death, are well calculated, observes Dr. Battey, to excite both astonishment and admiration, American results being far less satisfactory. Dr. Battey, enters into a consideration of the conditions of our success. Experience he considers to be the first of these conditions. If the best results are to be obtained in America, ovariectomy must, he believes, be put into the hands of a few, and the

general practitioner must forego the ambition of swinging here and there an occasional scalp to his girdle. The second condition is "clean hands and appliances;" the third, a clean apartment and bedding. The fourth is "pure atmosphere and free ventilation;" and Dr. Battey's allusion to "the upper floors of buildings in elevated urban localities, with surroundings as salubrious as circumstance will admit," probably refers to the Samaritan Free Hospital. The fifth condition is thorough cleansing of the abdomen. Dr. Battey agrees with those English, Scotch, and Irish operators who employ the drainage-tube when the "toilet" of the peritoneum is from any cause incomplete. The sixth condition is skilled nursing and quietude; the seventh, early operation; the eighth, complete intraperitoneal ligature of the pedicle. The last condition of success is antiseptic solutions and spray. He admits that "the results obtained by Dr. Bantock, in London, and Mr. Lawson Tait, in Birmingham, seem to show conclusively that the use of these solutions is not indispensable to the attainment of the best success. They have both shown by their work that scrupulous attention given to the cleansing of hands, instruments and sponges, not only prior to operating, but frequently during the progress of the operation, is sufficient. The frequent removal of the blood from hands and implements appears to protect the abdomen from septic influence." Dr. Battey then speaks of Dr. Keith's objections to the spray. Nevertheless, Dr. Battey himself is not inclined to give up complete antiseptic precautions. He has never had a case of carbolic acid poisoning, and concludes by observing: "To the criticism that carbolic solutions weaker than one to twenty have been shown in the laboratory to be impotent for the destruction of bacteria, I answer that I am seeking by its use only the restoration of my patients to health, and the mortality in my hands since its use has dropped from twenty-five per cent. to zero. This, for me, is sufficient reason for the continuance of the method, and for the rejection of all other substitutes, until such time as more complete demonstrations shall place a clearer light before me." —*Brit. Med. Journal*.

CHLORIDE OF GOLD AND SODIUM IN SOME NERVOUS AFFECTIONS.—In an interesting paper on this subject (*Medical News, Maryland Medical Journal*), Dr. Roberts Bartholow relates some important facts bearing upon the use of gold as a therapeutic agent. Gold is mentioned as a valuable remedy in the treatment of melancholy in medieval history, and afterwards it was used by the Arabians and Italians. Its therapeutic powers are grouped under three heads:

1. According to its so-called alterant effects.
2. According to its action on the nervous system; and