

Sept. 12.—Expresses himself as more free from pain than for a year past. Bowels have moved regularly since operation. P. 76, t. 98.

Sept. 15.—Doing well. P. and t. normal. Wound again dressed. All sutures removed but three. Wound about healed. Adhesive plaster and dry dressing.

Sept. 17.—Remaining sutures removed. Wound healed. May get up and dress, and lie on couch during day.

Sept. 19.—Since getting up he feels some soreness all along back of limb, as if a "cord had been strained." Walks about, however, with the aid of a cane, and feels little, if any, of old pains.

Oct. 9.—Some soreness complained of still along course of nerve, but otherwise is doing well. Has gained six or eight pounds since operation, and walks much more erectly than before.

Oct. 25.—Returned home to Annapolis, Nova Scotia, to-day. Soreness along line of nerve is nearly all gone.

1883, May 6.—Patient called to see me while on a visit to Fredericton. Has no appreciable halt now in his gait. Weighs 135 pounds. Says that he occasionally feels slight pain over left ilium, but does not mind it. Limb is now same size as the right.

1884, Nov.—Received a note from the patient in answer to an inquiry as to his present condition, in which he states that he is troubled a little, in changes of weather or on extra exertion, with pains about upper hip and below knee. His general health is, however, good, and he weighs 141 pounds.

*Remarks.*—If one may judge from the history of the above case, the operation of stretching the sciatic nerve is not such a very serious affair, as the patient suffered so little from it that he never once required an opiate, and was up out of bed in nine days with the wound healed. Although there seems to be some tendency to a return of the disease now, after the lapse of more than two years, yet, even if it should do so before long, I think the respite that he has enjoyed more than justifies the resort to the operation. Besides, it is evident that up to the present he has not suffered very severely from pain, otherwise his weight would not be, as it is, fully up to the average in health

It will be observed that I did not use the spray during the operation in this case, and such has been always my custom in those operations where a wound is made which is readily accessible, and where there is no cavity opened, such as a large abscess or a large joint. I believe that in such operations one can destroy all germs which may have lighted on the parts by the thorough application of some strong antiseptic before closing the wound, or by hyperdistension of the cavity after its closure by injecting the same through a drainage tube. Certain it is that I have frequently pursued this course, and have found these cases result just as well as any, both as regards inflammation and suppuration. What led me to pursue this method was the fact that compound fractures and other accidental wounds which were seen within a few hours after their occurrence, did perfectly well when they were treated in the above manner, and I could see no good reason why a wound made by the surgeon which could be attended to at once, ought not to do as well as, or better than, they. And I do not consider that one materially deviates from Lister's theories in pursuing such a course, for it is more than likely that the outward flow of blood and serum carries away any bacteria which may alight on the wounded part; and also these fluids themselves, I think, according to some experiments made by Sir Joseph himself, allow little, if any, multiplication of germs in them. The latter, in part at least, probably explains the fact that if wounds are attended to within twenty-four hours of their reception, they very often pursue an aseptic course to the end, just as well as if they had been made under the carbolic spray.

For these reasons, one is, I think, justified in doing most operations without this nuisance, for that it is in itself a nuisance even its friends must admit. I, however, invariably employ it in subsequent dressings, until I am satisfied that the wound has become a superficial one.

Dr. Russell, of Dakota, has written to a prominent physician in this city stating that he has used with marked benefit, in small-pox, 10 min. doses of tinct. of iodine, and thought it might be of service in the epidemic which now exists in the county of Hastings.