

## QUARTERLY RETROSPECT OF SURGERY.

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*Transplantation of Nerve from Rabbit to Man.*—Dr. Gersung of Vienna, assistant to Prof. Billroth, has recently performed a novel and interesting operation (*Brit. Med. Journal*, May 19, 1888), viz., the transplantation of nerve from the rabbit to man. The patient was Prof. von Fleischl, who occupies the chair of Physiology in the Vienna University. Sixteen years ago he accidentally wounded himself while performing a post-mortem examination, and severe inflammation of the whole right upper limb ensued. The terminal phalanx of the thumb became gangrenous, the stump left became painful, and later on reamputation was performed. This was followed by the formation of neuromata. For this condition the branches of the median nerve which supply the thumb were first resected, together with the terminal neuromata, and at a later period, when new neuromata began to develop, the central parts of the same nerves, together with the branches of the radial nerve which supply the thumb, were resected. Fresh neuromata now developed on the branches of the median nerve, which were treated without success by the injection of hyperosmic acid and electrolysis. Two years ago the neuromata were resected again, and the resection of the nerves was continued. The pain, however, recurred, and the suffering became so intense that the following operation was performed: On March 4th patient was put under the influence of chloroform, and the neuroma, which was situated behind the volar carpal ligament, was excised, the nerve being cut through behind the neuroma. The peripheral nerve stumps of the two digital branches were then sought for. A rabbit was now killed, and as long a piece as possible of the sciatic nerve of the animal with the two branches into which it divides was dissected from it. The sciatic nerve was afterwards inserted into the space between the central stump of the median nerve and its digital branches; the central end of the sciatic nerve was sutured to the connective tissue which covered the median nerve, and the