

markable advance which has been made during the past two or three years in the treatment of various *diseases and injuries of the brain and spinal cord* by surgical operation. Brilliant results have been obtained in this department of surgery—results which, a few years ago, would have been looked upon as Utopian. The operation of trephining the skull is a very old one, and was frequently and often unnecessarily performed by surgeons in the early part of this century. I have heard that it was quite the fashion for Dublin surgeons to have their pockets full of buttons of bone which had been removed with the trephine from the skulls of pugnacious Irishmen. However, the surgeons at that time only trephined for injury, and their explorations did not extend further than the dura mater; it was considered injudicious and dangerous to interfere with the brain itself, not, as in earlier times, from superstitious motives, but owing to such interference being followed by fatal inflammation. It is only with the introduction of antiseptic surgery, and a more accurate knowledge of the localization of brain functions that the brain itself has been interfered with. Our knowledge of the functions of the brain has been greatly extended by the researches of such men as Broca, Hughlings Jackson, Fritsch and Hitzig, Goltz, David Ferrier, Yeo and others. The observations of these investigators chiefly go to prove that many areas in the brain are connected with separate and distinct functions. It was found that if these areas on the surface of the convolutions were stimulated electrically, distinct movements were excited in certain groups of muscles on the opposite side of the body. These facts were not discovered all at once, but were the result of prolonged clinical observation and careful experiments on the brains of animals. Many cases of severe injury to the brain have been saved in the past by early trephining. Abscesses of the brain following injury have been frequently opened successfully. Again, many cases of epilepsy due to injury have been cured by trephining over the spot injured; but it is only quite recently, in fact only since the truth of the theory of Broca's localization has been established on a firm basis, that operations have been undertaken where there was no external indication of injury or