

Nerve-stretching is now a well-recognized and very successful means of treating obstinate cases of neuralgia. Dr. Chandler of New Jersey has collected seventy cases of rebellious sciaticas treated in this way; 97 per cent. of these cases were either cured or relieved. It is an operation that is not altogether devoid of danger. There are, at least, five fatal cases reported. In three of these, chloroform appears to have been the cause of the fatal issue. In one case I was fortunate enough to be able to take a tracing of the pulse while the nerve was being stretched. The immediate effect of the stretching was a reduction in the pulse rate from 80 to 40. This occurred within ten seconds. At the same time there was a slight fall in the blood-pressure, which was previously low, from the chloroform. It is well-known that the violent irritation of a sensory nerve can bring about stand-still of the heart. As chloroform has somewhat a similar action on the heart, it is not at all wonderful that when these two powerful factors are in operation that a fatal result has occurred. As ether has directly opposite action to chloroform on the heart, it should always be used in these operations. In two of the reported cases ether was used, and the difference in its cardiac action from chloroform was strikingly illustrated. The utmost pressure exerted in pulling the nerve while the patients were under ether could not reduce the pulse more than four beats in the minute, and even this trifling reduction was some ten seconds in being brought about. With chloroform, on the other hand, a reduction of 40 beats per minute was effected almost instantly. Further, ether does not reduce the blood-pressure, and in this lies its great safety.

A CASE OF HYDATIDS OF THE LUNG.

By D. F. SMITH, M.D., WALKERTON, ONT.

Miss K., a rather dark, muddy-complexioned girl, æt. 20 years, came to my office on November 4th, 1881, to consult about a running sore on the back of her chest. It was situated within two inches of the spine, and opposite the 8th intercostal space of the left side. There was a good deal of flabby enlargement in the neighbourhood of this spot, and by probing, several sinuses