

employed by physicians and surgeons. As its exact therapeutical value is still undetermined, we record below the recent contributions to this subject.

---

SUBCUTANEOUS NERVE-STRETCHING IN SCIATICA.—In a paper on this subject, read before the Medical and Chirurgical Society of Maryland at its last annual meeting, Dr. J. W. Chambers, from his own cases and others taken from the journals, draws the following conclusions: 1. That in obstinate cases of sciatic neuralgia the subcutaneous stretching of the sciatic nerve is highly satisfactory. 2. That from effects produced by the subcutaneous method, it is highly probable that all required force can be obtained. This he had also proved by experiments upon the dead subject. 3. The sciatic nerve could by this method be sufficiently stretched to produce anæsthesia. 4. That moderate elongation of a nerve impairs its sensory, and but little, if at all, its motor, functions. 5. That considerable force may be applied to a nerve trunk without seriously impairing its motor functions. 6. That it is not necessary or justifiable to employ more force than just enough to produce anæsthesia.

---

THE PSYCHICAL ELEMENT IN NERVE-STRETCHING.—Dr. J. G. Kiernan relates the history of a patient suffering from multiple cerebro-spinal sclerosis. During Dr. Kiernan's absence the patient went to a quack who etherized him, made a superficial incision over the clavicle, then assured him that the posterior cord of the brachial plexus had been stretched. The patient improved very much for six months, when the bad symptoms began to return. The improvement is referred, by the reporter, to the imagination. The powerful and direct effect upon the brain of etherization was doubtless the more potent factor.—*Journ. of Neurol. and Psychiat.*, Feb., 1883.

---

THE SUBJECT OF NERVE-STRETCHING is reviewed, and its results analyzed, by Dr. John Berg, who contributes nothing new.—*Hygeia*, March, 1883.

---

AN EXPERIMENTAL AND CLINICAL STUDY OF NERVE-STRETCHING has been made by R. Stintzig. He reports his results in a case of spastic spinal paralysis. At the end of four months, the cramps had disappeared, and the gait was much improved. He reports also four cases of tabes, with some improvement, and one case of paralysis agitans with no improvement. König, in reviewing Stintzig's report, refers to fifteen cases of neuralgia operated upon by himself, in most instances with excellent results.—*Centralbl. für Chirurgie*, June 2, 1883.