

Hüter collected fifty-four cases in which the common carotid was tied for trigeminal neuralgia. Of these, three died—five per cent. The operation was done after all other treatment, medical and surgical, had failed. Prof. John Wyeth has tabulated fourteen cases (including the first of Hutchinson's cases, which are classed among the cured, but the disease returned since the publication of his paper, and three years and eight months after the artery was tied). Gross has added one case, and Hutchinson one—in all, sixteen cases. Of these, one died; fifteen recovered. Of these last, two were total failures, eight were cured, six temporarily relieved—one for two years, one for three years and eight months, one for four years, one for eight months, one for eleven months, one for a short period.

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THE EXCISION OF A TUMOR FROM THE BRAIN (*Lancet*, Dec. 20, 1884).—The first attempt to remove a tumor from the the brain has been made by Mr. Rickman J. Godlee by the advice of Dr. Hughes Bennett, and has awakened considerable interest.

The case was that of a young man twenty-five years old. The symptoms were slight twitchings in the left side of the face and tongue, which gradually increased in severity till they culminated in general convulsions and loss of consciousness. Later, spasmodic twitchings followed by paralysis of arm and hand, that of fingers and wrist being complete. Also twitchings and weakness of left leg. Comparative immobility of left side of face. Double neuritis. Also paroxysms of severe lancinating pain in the head and uncontrollable vomiting. Dr. Bennett concluded that, First: There was a tumor of the brain. Second: It involved the cortical substance. Third: It was of limited size, as it destroyed the centres for the hand, and only caused irritation of the neighboring centres; and fourth, it was situated in the region of the upper third of the fissure of Rolando. As the patient's sufferings were intolerable, Dr. Bennett advised operation. When, however, the brain was exposed, no tumor was visible, though the ascending frontal convolution seemed to be somewhat distended. An incision was then made into the gray matter in the direction of the blood-vessels, and one quarter of an inch below the surface a hard glioma, about the size of a walnut, was found and easily removed, hemorrhage being arrested by means of the galvano-cautery. After the operation the patient's condition remained satisfactory for a while. The pains, vomiting, and convulsions disappeared, and the general condition remained good. A hernia of the brain afterwards, however, developed, cerebritis set in, and the patient died.

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PISCIDIA, A NEW HYPNOTIC.—Piscidia is contained in the rind of the root of *Piscidia erythrina*, a luginous tree of the Antilles. The name piscidia, *i. e.*, fish-killer, is derived from the power of a decoction of the root-bark to stun fish, as was well known to the inhabitants of the islands. Leifert made a series of interest-