

left the ovaries and the tubes in no worse condition, but, on the contrary, in a rather better condition than they were before, while the surgical treatment was nearly always accompanied by the removal of the ovaries. With married women, and indeed with all women, the loss of the ovaries was no small affair. The temptation to operate was very great. The patient's fate was sealed one way or the other, when the operation was concluded, and, whether she lived or died, the surgeon received a great deal of praise for having the courage to perform the operation. Also the remuneration was sometimes very considerable. With the electrical treatment, on the contrary, it was tedious, required sometimes as many as fifty or one hundred application, and there were occasional relapses. This application took up a good deal of time, but this objection may be lessened by devoting two afternoons a week exclusively to this treatment; in which case a considerable number of applications may be administered in a few hours, the patients being prepared in an adjoining room, by a nurse or an assistant.

The physician who cures the patient with electricity does not receive the same credit for his good work as the one who cures her by surgical means, so the temptation is very great to operate; but he could show fifty or sixty women who had been cured of all their symptoms, and who had remained well since several years, who had been treated by electricity. A great many well-known gynæcologists have used the Apostoli method for fibroids with good success, but have refrained from publishing their cases for fear of injuring their surgical reputation. This is a fact known positively to the writer.

One of the objections to electricity which has been raised is unjust, and that is that it causes adhesions. The writer referred to several cases which had been cured of their symptoms, but were subsequently

operated on for other reasons, and in which no adhesions whatever were found after as many as one hundred strong applications of the galvanic current.

Another case which he referred to demonstrated the truth of Apostoli's dictum, that when the application of this method causes febrile reaction, the tubes are badly diseased. In this case, which had been treated for fibroid, it had every appearance of being one, could not endure the Apostoli method, and was operated on by the writer, who then found that the large pear-shaped mass in the centre of the abdomen was made up of two large sausage-shaped tubes filled with pus, and two ovaries, the size of oranges, and the uterus, all glued together and covered with lymph. These were separated from each other and removed, all except the uterus, which, not being much enlarged, was left. This patient made a perfect recovery. He was very much opposed to galvano-puncture, which was, he considered, a dangerous proceeding, and he thought that one could obtain all the benefits required, by the gentle use of the positive pole, either in the form of platinum, zinc or copper in the uterus, which dried up the bleeding mucous membrane, and by its tonic action upon the muscular tissue through which the blood vessels pass to supply the bleeding mucous membrane cut off the blood supply just as surely as though we tied the ovarian arteries. The action of the electric current, he said, as applied to fibroids, was three-fold. The first was not mysterious, but was but the arrest of circulation in the dilated capillaries by electro-chemical cautery. The second is no more difficult to understand than the action of ergot or strychnine; it not only tones up the vasomotor system, making the calibre of the arteries less, but it calls into play the special and remarkable powers which the uterus possesses of controlling its own circulation when it has the strength to contract.