

cepted. "Let us go to the St. Louis," said Robert Barnes. "I would love so much to see Péan remove a uterus."

Do you hear that, gentlemen? The great, the illustrious Barnes wishing to satisfy his curiosity, and burning with the desire of witnessing a case of hysterectomy—so serious an operation at that epoch that even the masters in surgery hesitated to undertake it!

This occurred hardly twenty-three years ago, and this formidable operation, about which the same Robert Barnes was saying then that the time had not come for forming a confident opinion upon its practice, of which there was, he said, very little ground for enthusiastic advocacy; that operation, the performance of which was the object of a mere curiosity to foreign surgeons coming to Paris; well, not a week elapses to-day without this same operation being performed once or twice in Ottawa by your most humble and obscure servant.

Is not this fact more than sufficient to demonstrate what wonderful progress has been accomplished in gynæcology within the last quarter of the century?

If this meeting was composed of gynæcologists, how many important questions would I not feel tempted to bring before you, and upon which I would willingly inquire into the results of your special and personal experience! Gynæcology, do you see, is a comparatively young branch of surgical science, and the immense development it has received within the last few years has given rise to a great number of obscure points which are awaiting some rays of light thrown on them by the shock of discussion, and the control of collective experience. But you are all general practitioners, my good old friends, with whom I have worked, studied, and discussed, during twenty years, subjects of general practice, and with whom I must part, since I have come to the determination of devoting myself hereafter to special work. But although somewhat swerving, I do not quit you altogether, and I bid no farewell to general pathology, whose teachings the specialist must never forget, and from which, on the contrary, he must incessantly draw the principles that will guide his doings. You, my friends, are at the crossway, at the confluence toward which all the branches of pathology converge; you, at a glance, embrace all the knowledge that is brought in from everywhere, to make of it a synthetical application to the healing art. We specialists, without ceasing to belong to the general body, momentarily leave it off in order to thoroughly explore particular roads. We bring