

down the perineum with his finger after each washing, so as to prevent any liquid from remaining in what is called the seminal lake. His work is done with the patient in the dorsal position, with head and shoulders considerably elevated and her feet being held in supports, permitting the buttocks to be brought over the edge of the table so that any liquid falls into a receptacle placed beneath it.

In France and Germany I was so much impressed with the advantages of the dorsal position in certain cases, that I brought with me from Berlin a pair of supports for the legs, which I have had fastened to my office table, and have found that a woman can be kept in the proper position and more strongly and firmly held than if I had two assistants with me.

Another thing that strikes one at Apostoli's, and indeed at the clinics of all the leading men in Europe, is the little use they make of the speculum, while in America it is a common thing to find a dozen or so of them in the gynecologist's outfit. Apostoli only uses a Cusco's speculum and even that very seldom, trusting more to the sense of touch than to sight. Another thing which impressed me greatly, was the manner in which they do not hesitate to bring the uterus down to the vulvar orifice, or at any rate sufficiently so to make an operation upon it easy. Then Apostoli, when he cannot reach the uterus with his finger, presses it down from above until he can feel every part of it; while Martin and Olshausen, of Berlin, do not hesitate to grasp each lip with what they call a *kugelzahn*, which is as commonly in use there as a speculum is here, and then draw it down to the field of vision.

Another class of cases in which Apostoli's treatment is remarkably successful is that of chronic perimetritis, but he is very guarded in the use of this treatment if there is the slightest sign of acute inflammation. In a case of chronic cellulitis, the patient was enabled after five or six applications of the current, to walk a considerable distance, sometimes several miles, although before the treatment she had to come in a carriage. One case especially, which impressed me very much, was a woman who came there in a full state of hemorrhage. Apostoli cleansed the uterus and vagina and then introduced the positive platinum sound, five inches in length, into the uterus, and applied a strong current. After a few minutes

he requested me to withdraw the sound, which had entered quite easily, and to my surprise I was unable to do so. The instrument seemed to be grasped as though it had been held in a vice; after using considerable force I was unable to withdraw it, when it came out quite clean.

With regard to parovarian cysts, he thinks they might in many cases be punctured with the galvano-cautery through the vagina, which would prevent any escape of their contents into the peritoneum. This he has not yet tried, but suggested that it was a good field for experiment.

In cases of extrauterine foetation, he would prefer to push down the egg and puncture it with a chemical cautery. In cases of polypus, he removes the tumor by destroying the whole uterine mucous membrane, by means of a negative chemical cauterization.

In arrested development of the generative organs, he uses the faradic current from a long fine wire, and applied by means of a uterine or vaginal exciter, which is made of hard rubber, through which the two currents run to near the end, where they terminate in platinum electrodes, one or two inches of the non-conductor intervening between them. This furnishes a stimulating influence which spreads for a considerable distance all through the organs, increasing the activity of their circulation.

An immensely powerful current can be easily endured through the uterus, provided that the external parts are properly protected.

The ordinary currents used in medicine, if applied to the uterus, are quite inefficient for the treatment of uterine diseases.

If we were to touch the current he uses at its full strength, it would give a sensation that we would never forget.

In conclusion, I may state my conviction, that in electricity, we have one of the most powerful and at the same time most manageable of agents in the whole list of gynecological therapeutics.

In a future article I purpose giving the results of my own experience in the cases now under treatment.

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Sir William Gall is recovering from his slight paralytic shock.