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Original Communications.

THE PRESENT STATUS OF THE ELECTRICAL TREATMENT OF FIBROIDS.*

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At the full flow of the tide of the most successful surgery the world has ever known, one must possess a good deal of the courage of his convictions to rise in the

presence of such a distinguished audience as this, to even discuss, far less to advocate. the treatment of tumors, even the most benign ones, by any other method than the surgeon's knife.

Appearing on the programme of this meeting, surrounded as this paper and its author is by papers and surgeons advocating every kind of surgical treatment, from tying the uterine arteries to removing nearly all the pelvic contents, my position is a peculiarly difficult one, the more especially as I have been trained as a surgeon and occupy the position of surgeon in three hospitals where circumstances often compel me to treat fibroids by surgical procedure.

It is only fair that I should say at the outset, that I did not choose this topic for my discourse; it was assigned to me by our esteemed chairman, who, in order to preserve the high reputation for impartiality which should characterize the conduct of. the presiding officers of all scientific meetings, and which has been possessed to an

^{*} Abstract of paper read before the Obstetrical and Gynæcological Section of the American Medical Association at Baltimore, 7th May, 1895.