apparatus and literature was held in an adjoining room. The leading firms of Chicago, Detroit, and Philadelphia, as well as the most prominent New York manufacturers, being represented.

A general matter of regret was the absence through illness of the genial Dr. Robert Newman, to whom was due, in a large measure, the completeness of the details of arrangement.

Some inconvenience arose from the non-appearance of the secretary, Dr. Bigelow, of Philadelphia; but on invitation from the president, Dr. Charles R. Dickson, of Toronto, assumed the duties, and rendered what assistance he was able.

The president's address was entitled, "Electricity and Medical Art and Science." Seldom, he said, had a branch of science requiring so much intelligence been so sedulously relegated to those least gifted to pursue its study. Among the causes of this might be mentioned the difficulties of comprehending the nature of electricity; traditional adherence to drugs in the treatment of disease, and scepticism as to the value of other therapeutic measures; a natural contempt for the charlatans who were among the first to make much use of this agent in medicine; and the ignorance of the of the public who regard electricity as a great "cure-all." This discredit of so important a branch will disappear with a higher education and a consequent purging of electro-therapy from mysticism by those whose labors are undertaken in a purely scientific spirit. And now a glance at where we stand to-day. As a result of the changes which have worked themselves out in industrial and commercial relations, the electrical engineer has arisen, electricity has emerged from its thraldom, cast aside the restraint of the classroom, and become a part of practical life. The electrical engineers are beginning to invade the realms of biology, and, what is more important, medical men are beginning to turn more attention to the physics of electricity. We welcome the electrical expert. To-day an exact science, electricity, knocks at the door of medicine, an inexact science, and demands a hearing. In the onward march of measures for the relief of crippled humanity, I see electro-therapeutics struggling to the vanguard. There are positive pillars of fact on which our faith is based, the known and remarkable action of this agent upon living tissues, viz., the excitation of living protoplasm; electrolysis, without which there could be no conduction; cataphoresis, by which the fluids of the human body are moved by the flow of the current from the positive to the negative pole; and the familiar vaso-motor effects. Electrolysis chemically, and cataphoresis mechanically, alters the amount and distribution of the salts necessary to the proper nutrition and functions of the various parts of the living organism. It may be said that electro-therapeutics is chemistry against chemistry.

While some of the papers read were, naturally, of a strictly technical character, yet the majority were of much interest to the general practitioner. A synopsis is given of some of the latter.

Dr. A. D. Rockwell, of New York, dilated upon "The Use and Abuse of Electricity in Medicine," and alluded to two cases of infantile paralysis, in one of which prolonged and powerful faradization entirely extinguished the little muscular irritability which had been present. In the other case, patient and skilful treatment with the continuous current, gradually but markedly increased the power of the muscles. He exhibited a patient who had met with a railroad accident resulting in injury to the radial, median, and ulnar nerves, in whose case, for three months previously, long sittings of the faradic current had been tried. When first seen last May, the atrophy and degenerative reaction was so profound that an unfavorable prognosis was given; but as a result of intelligent treatment, he is now back at his old duties as a handler of baggage.

"New Contributions to the Electrical Treatment (both faradic and galvanic) to the Diagnosis in Gynecology," by Dr. George Apostoli. This paper was read by Dr. Hutchinson. The author thought that exploratory laparotomies and mutilating operations for ovarian disease should be prescribed till we had learned all that was possible from intra-uterine applications of electricity. He had, in 1883, shown the sedative action of the current from a fine-wire faradic coil; further experience had taught him that every hysterical pain of ovarian origin is amenable to this current; therefore, if the current fails to give relief, there is a concomitant affection of the appendages. When employing the galvanic current, the more a woman complains out of proportion to the strength employed, and the more quickly the pain ceases after treatment, the more precise is the diagnosis of hysteria. On the other hand, in every case of peri-uterine phlegmasia there is but little tolerance to the current, the post-operative reaction begins quickly, and is prolonged in proportion to the acuteness of the inflammation of the appendages. If with a current of only 20 or 30 milliampères the intolerence is excessive, it indicates that the uterus is attached with a lesion not amenable to conservative gynecology, and that galvanic treatment must be suspended. Castration will then probably be required. A long discussion followed, in which the value of the diagnostic use of electricity was admitted by all, and the importance of the paper acknowledged.

Dr. G. Betton Massey, of Philadelphia, read a paper on "A New Treatment of Prostatic Hypertrophy." When we remember that this gland is largely composed of muscular tissue, the indication for the constringent power of the electric current will be appreciated. He applied galvanism to the prostate by means of a silver prostatic catheter insulated with rubber, except at the eye. "Swelling currents" were employed from 20 to 70 m.a., but only allowed to remain at the maximum strength for a couple of seconds. Scrupulous cleanliness and great gentleness are necessary, and the sittings should not be oftener than every five days. Under these circumstances, there should be a feeling of comfort after the treatment. The primary current is also used at each sitting. A condition often associated with hypertrophy, viz., diminished contractility of the bladder, is also benefited by the same treatment. Dr. Rockwell mentioned a case he had punctured through the rectum and used a current of 50 m.a.; an orchitis ensued, but when this subsided the patient could void water quite easily.

A discussion on "Cataphoresis" was opened by Dr. Frederic Peterson (New York), and continued by Mr. A. E. Kennelly (Edison Laboratory),