

of this special construction was to furnish an instrument which would allow of the free escape from the uterus of the gas evolved during the Apostoli treatment. He had found that by attention to this detail in the treatment, much of the after-pain could be avoided.

DISCUSSION.

Dr. Eug. C. Gehrung, of St. Louis, said that when he first employed the Apostoli treatment by galvano-puncture, he found that the gas accumulated in the tumors, and formed the basis of future abscesses; so he had constructed an electrolytic trocar and canula, which was described and illustrated in Dr. Massey's book. It was found that the gas and fluids sometimes escaped from the tube for days after the treatment.

Dr. Massey said he had observed enormous quantities of gas escaped from the canula, but he thought most of the irritation observed after the treatment was due to the use of inflexible instruments.

Dr. Dickson thought that the tip of the instrument should be protected, and that any such spiral instrument was objectionable on account of the trauma likely to be produced during its introduction and withdrawal.

Dr. Hayes replied that there was not in reality so much difficulty in introducing and withdrawing the instrument as one would suppose who had not tried it. The evolution of gas is so great when strong currents are employed, that it prevents in a measure the adherence of the tissues to the electrode.

"A Contribution to Electro-Therapeutics in Salpingitis."

Dr. W. B. Sprague, of Detroit, read a paper on this subject. The paper contained the histories of several cases of salpingitis, in which the author had been able to introduce an electrode through the uterus and into the Fallopian tubes at a time when these tubes were distended with pus. In each case, there was a free discharge of pus, and prompt relief to the symptoms. Of course, in many cases he found it impracticable to carry out intra-tubal galvanization, but he had succeeded in other cases besides those reported in the paper, and in no instance had serious symptoms followed the treatment. His experience with this method extended over a period of three years. The treatment is necessarily of limited application, but is still extremely useful in appropriate cases. He used a sound with a curve slightly sharper than the normal one, and was of course careful not to use any force. If after the instrument has reached the cornu of the uterus a mild current be turned on, it will be found usually that in proper cases the instrument will soon pass on into the tube.

DISCUSSION.

Dr. Smith said that many would not believe it was possible to catheterize the tubes, but when in Liverpool, Dr. Wallace had shown him no less than six cases in his hospital at one time, in which the uterine sound had been passed into the Fallopian tubes.

Dr. M. S. Weber, of Detroit, referred to the sneering, doubting manner in which the first communication of the author on this subject had been received by the Michigan State Society, but he felt sure from what he had seen of Dr. Sprague's work, that he was to be congratulated upon what he had accomplished.

Dr. Massey said that in 1880 he brought up this subject before the Philadelphia Obstetrical Society. At that time, he had succeeded in emptying a number of tubes through the uterus. It should be remembered, however, that this was work suitable only for experts.

Dr. Sarah H. Stevenson, of Chicago, said that she had long been convinced that such treatment was feasible, but had hitherto lacked the courage to try it.

Discussion.—"What are the Possibilities of Electricity in the Treatment of Fibroid Growths?" Those participating in the discussion were asked to do so under certain specific heads.

Dr. Kellogg opened the discussion. He said that the improvement in the general health observed was due to the influence of the electric current on the abdominal sympathetic. The growth could be arrested, and in certain cases near the menopause, retrograde change could be expected. He had on a former occasion reported a series of fifty cases, in seven of which the tumor disappeared. Since then, he had not been quite so fortunate. No one would think of employing anything but the constant current except for the relief of pain. He usually employed a coulombmeter in conjunction with the milliamperimeter, thus avoiding troublesome calculations. His personal experience had led him to think that the phlebitis sometimes excited where very powerful currents are employed is a decided help in bringing about retrograde changes in the tumor. He would not employ this treatment in rapidly growing tumors unaccompanied by hemorrhage, in rapidly growing tumors appearing after the menopause, where ovarian cysts accompany the fibroid tumor, where the application is followed by inflammation, and in cases which do not show improvement after a reasonable trial. Recently he had been employing milder currents because they caused less inconvenience, and admitted of more frequent applications. Seventy-five per cent. of his cases had been symptomatically cured; in 55 per cent. the tumor had been very much reduced, and in 14 per cent. it had entirely disappeared.