

trary, when there is hemorrhage or leucorrhœa, the positive pole is used. Very strong currents are used, say from 50 to 300 milliamperes, and the current continued from 5 to 8 minutes. The applications are made about twice a week, and may be made even during active hemorrhage. A very large abdominal electrode is used, which disperses the current and renders very strong currents possible and even painless.*

The Apostoli treatment was taken up promptly in the United States by Dr. F. H. Martin, of Chicago, and by Dr. G. J. Engelmann, of St. Louis. The former read a paper on the subject before the American Medical Association in May, 1886, and the latter read a paper before the American Gynecological Society in September, 1886. In England attention was first directed to the subject by Dr. Woodham Webb, now residing in Paris. In the autumn of 1886, at the request of Sir Spencer Wells, Dr. Woodham Webb made the acquaintance of Dr. Apostoli, and after six months' regular attendance at his *clinique*, commenced a series of letters in the *British Medical Journal*, in which he fully described the Apostoli method and the results that have been attained. In his first communication—May 7th, 1887—he concludes his letter as follows:—

"The upshot of all this is that I am perfectly satisfied much good has been done; many women have been gradually, and without suffering,

by GEORGE J. ENGELMANN, M.D., and *Electrolysis in Gynecological Surgery*, by WM. H. BAKER, M.D. (*Transactions of the American Gynecological Society*, Vol. 2, 1886.)

Electricity in Gynecology. By A. D. ROCKWELL, M.D. (*A System of Gynecology*, by American Authors.)

Also correspondence in *British Medical Journal* from Woodham Webb, W. S. Playfair, George Elder, R. A. Gibbons, Julius Aulthaus, Lawson Tait, Skene Keith, Jas. H. Aveling, Milne Murray, Dr. Steavenson and others.

*The electrolysis of uterine fibroids seems to have been suggested almost simultaneously (in 1867) by Dr. Julius Althaus, of London, and Dr. Robert Newman, of New York. In 1878, Dr. Cutter, of Boston, reports fifty cases operated upon by his own method, with the following result: Cured, 11; arrested, 25; relieved, 3; no change, 7; fatal, 4. His method differs from that of Apostoli in that the tumour was punctured with electrolytic needles through the abdominal walls.

set up in health, who would, under ordinary circumstances, have been condemned to the risks of some cutting operation. The evidence that, by the treatment of Dr. Apostoli, all the symptoms caused by these tumors can be relieved; that the tumors can be reduced in size; that patients can be made to regain their usual health, powers, and enjoyment of life, is clear, indisputable, and convincing.

"Seeing what I have seen, and knowing what I know of the galvano-caustic treatment of uterine fibroids and hypertrophies, I should deem myself wanting in philosophic self-denial and Christian charity if, finding myself face to face with a woman suffering from such disease, I were to menace her with an operation of excision, either of her tumor or appendages. There is an alternative to propose, which is not, like myomectomy, capped with a chance of two to one against success (latest table compiled in Paris, 1886), and which is not mutilating or sterilising like oöphorectomy. Even if the tumor be not eradicated, a woman enduring symptoms calling for operative interference would think herself happy, after a little patience, and no more pain than is the accompaniment of her disease, to find that she had changed for the same condition of ease and freedom she might have with a pregnancy of a few months."

With a view of giving an idea of the actual work done at Dr. Apostoli's *clinique*, I will here insert a letter to the *British Medical Journal*, June 11th, from Geo. Eider, M.D., surgeon to Samaritan Hospital for Women, Nottingham:

"For some time past my attention has been directed to the treatment more especially of uterine myoma by electrolysis, and most of the literature on this subject is known to me; but the manner of its use seemed not only so imperfect and uncertain, and also dangerous, that I hesitated to adopt the practice until the reading of a recent pamphlet on the treatment of endometritis by the galvano-caustic, as perfected by Apostoli, threw a new and more hopeful light upon the subject.

"Dr. Webb's letter in your issue of May 7th stimulated my curiosity still further, and accordingly I went to Paris, and attended Dr. Apostoli's *clinique* on two days, and will very briefly state what I saw:

"1. Case of a woman, aged 41 years, who