

should have a certain space sacred to it more than to many others. But we do believe that in many instances it will prove a valuable weapon in combating many forms of disease, such as, chronic inflammations in the pelvic cavity, which but a short experience in gynecology teaches us to dread.

Now in order to fully arrive at the amount of benefit to be ultimately obtained from the use of electricity, it is necessary that it should be rescued from the hands of quacks, and applied scientifically, and definitely by the educated physician. Scientifically in as much as the old method of using 4, 7, or 12 cells is about as far removed from scientific accuracy as it can well be, because the strength of the current depends, 1st, on the kind of cell, 2nd, on the exciting fluid, 3rd, on the length of time the battery has been in use and 4th, on the number of times the battery has been used since it was first set up. All these causes combine to make the old method of current measuring utterly useless even comparatively, and especially must it be denounced when later science has given us the means of measuring cheaply and accurately the strength of current and enables us to determine the dose of electricity more accurately and quickly than we now dispense any other remedial agent.

Definitely because the physician, who knows exactly the malady, its natural course and termination, and the thousand and one other minutæ about the disease which only the physician does know, watches the course and effect of his remedy with that trained habit of scientific observation which is part of his life and nature. Therefore, it is only from him that we can expect to receive that accumulation of data and details which will enable us to judge calmly and reasonably for or against electricity in its various uses. Electricity in its scientific mode of application as above described, its dose being registered, the best method of administration in each disease being known, is a late development in therapeutics and, as our knowledge is being constantly added to, it becomes necessary to keep up a certain continued record of its advance as well as a place where the results of treatment may be chronicled as each physician completes his cases. It is only in this way that we can ever be in a position to take a definite stand as regards this one of our latest therapeutical measures.

Our neighbors across the line are making great

additions to their present knowledge, and we wish our Canadian physicians to aid us in advancing ours in this department of MEDICAL SCIENCE.

LONDON WEST SEWAGE GRIEVANCES

THE general public, and perhaps some of the medical public, have doubtless been wondering, what, and why it is, that at intervals during the past six months the daily press has published reports regarding London and London West in which, according as either Board of Health or Council had met, has indicated a determination to do something desperate. The trouble between the two municipalities may be said to date back to that fatal night in July, 1883, when a storm of unprecedented violence so filled the two branches of the Thames conflowing at the south-west of London city, that the piled up waters flooded the flats to the west on which the town of London West is situate. London West has ever since naturally felt that so long as the Water-works dam on the river below the city holds up the water, floods may occur at any moment: while in addition they state that owing to several dams being on the river, the sewage of London, largely poured into the river, seriously affects, through pollution of the water and its deposit along the banks, the health of their town. London city on the other hand naturally wishes to maintain so valuable a water-privilege as the dam which gives enough power to supply the city with its water, and states that if London West people kept their outhouses, cellars, etc., clean the malarial diseases, typhoid and diphtheria now prevalent, would in a large measure disappear. The question of whether the upper dams are a nuisance, under the Health Acts, has been decided in the affirmative; but references, etc., have hitherto prevented any execution of the determination of the Court. Thus, stated briefly, the London sewage question has become one of exceeding interest and importance to the public and to medical science. No one can doubt that, were London sewage passed directly into the centre of the river and carried down without any obstruction, both towns would be free from possible danger; but it must not be forgotten that London is growing into a large city and that polluted river water does maintain its impurities much longer than used to be supposed. Thus