

over and over again seen a strength of 250 milliamperes administered without the patient complaining of any sensation in the skin, or producing the slightest heat or redness. 5th, a uterine electrode, made of platinum, for the application of a positive current, for which, owing to the acids produced causing rapid oxidation, this metal is alone suitable. This platinum electrode is prevented from touching the sensitive vagina by means of a non-conducting covering for a considerable part of the length, otherwise the current would escape into the vagina, rendering the operation unprofitable. For this protecting covering he has found a celluloid tube the best.

In all cases of uterine fibroids occupying a position in the uterus, such as to render a safe puncture impossible, he employs a positive current in the uterine cavity, as will do in cases of endometritis, and when it is not advisable to destroy a large amount of tissue by puncture. When, however, the fibroid is in the posterior half of the uterus, so that he can reach it through the posterior cul de sac, he uses a negative current applied through an electrode made in the shape of a trocar. As much of his success is due to the observation of a number of little details which might be considered unimportant, I might describe the process of making a chemical galvanocaustic puncture :

1st. A thorough irrigating out of the vagina with a sublimate solution of 1:1000, from which he has never had any ill effect.

2nd. Having introduced his right finger so as to touch the fibroid, pressing down the uterus against it with his other hand, he inserts the celluloid tube to the place he has chosen for his puncture. He then introduces the steel trocar (the length having been previously arranged, so as to project one-third to two-thirds of an inch beyond its covering) through the roof of the vagina right into the tumor. The current is then very gradually turned, a careful watch being kept on the galvanometer. When the woman complains of pain he diminishes her sensibility by, for the moment, increasing the current beyond her endurance, then gently reduces it by a few milliamperes, so that she is better able to bear it by comparison without complaining. This is what he calls establishing tolerance. He then carefully increases the current by successive stages, to one hundred

milliamperes, for the first seance, but in subsequent seances reaching as high as two hundred and fifty. The woman is easily able to bear this high intensity without a great amount of pain, and also the short pain caused by the introduction of the short trocar. After from five to ten minutes the application of the current is very carefully and gradually reduced, as the sudden cutting of it off would cause a painful shock, owing to the induced current set up in the pelvis. The woman is then again carefully irrigated out and a small piece of iodoform gauze is introduced up to the wound, and the woman is then placed in bed for a few hours or for half a day, after which she returns to her home without any inconvenience. On her coming again a few days later, the gauze is removed with the slightest stain of blood or sometimes a little pus on it. The vagina is then again washed out and a fresh piece of gauze used, and after a week, or in some cases after two or three applications a week, the woman is able to return to her occupation.

Apostoli does not pretend that this method will rapidly remove a large fibroid, but he does pretend to cure the patient symptomatically ; that is to say, it is slightly reduced in size after each application, and the woman suffers no inconvenience from it.

I did not have to depend, nor did Apostoli wish me to depend upon his word for the advantages of his treatment, as he invited me to walk about among the patients and to converse with them as to the kind of sensation they felt before treatment and as to the relief they experienced after, and with few exceptions their reports were exceedingly encouraging, while in cases of acute pain in the organs on pressure I could myself observe the relief. There is one thing which he does very thoroughly and insists upon his assistants doing, and that is a thorough cleansing of the hands and instruments before and after each application, or even examination. The hands have to be well washed and the fingers scrubbed with sublimate solution, and the vagina of every patient is thoroughly washed, while the instruments which are introduced into the uterine cavity are rendered scrupulously clean by being passed through the flame of a spirit lamp, and afterwards dipped in a strong carbolic solution. That he has never had any trouble from sublimate poisoning, may perhaps be explained by a little knack he has of pressing