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Original Communications.

ELECTRICAL TREATMENT OF UTERINE FIBROIDS, WITH ANSWERS TO OBJECTIONS AND CITATION OF NOVELTIES.*

By G. APOSTOLI, M.D., Paris, France.

GENTLEMEN,—Every therapeutical innovation which runs counter to prejudices and interests meets with opposition, and has to bear the brunt of hastily formed opinions. This has been the lot of my electrical treatment of uterine fibroids, and I am happy that it should be so, since frank and loyal controversy will bring light upon the subject and strengthen my position.

My first object to-day is to bring forward all the arguments that have been set up against my system, to reply to them, and show that this can be done with success. In order to avoid personalities and to keep this discussion on a footing of scientific courtesy, I shall group these objections without regard to the source from which they come, and let my reply immediately follow the statement.

In the second part of my paper I propose to introduce to your notice some additions I have made to my therapeutical exped-

ients, which will be regarded as of practical importance.

PART I.—ANSWERS TO OBJECTIONS. I. CRITICISMS OF THE BOOK OF DR. CARLET.—Many deprecatory remarks have been made upon the histories of my first hundred cases, as reported in the thesis of my assistant. I must notice them separately.

A. It is said that I have confusedly mixed up cases of simple subinvolution, or the enlargements of chronic metritis, with those of fibrous tumors. How could this possibly happen? since the greater part of the women had never been pregnant, and among the rest I had to deal with wombs of enormous size, some even rising above the umbilicus; besides, the most careful examination, both external and internal, combined with hysterometry, left no doubt in my mind as to the nature of the cases. But even supposing a mistake had been made in some rare cases, it could be no cause for regret, for it would only prove that two conditions, chronic metritis and fibrous tumors, equally refractory to ordinary management, are amenable to the same treatment.

B. *Judging by the uterine measurements given in my book a large proportion of my cases have but slightly diminished.*—It may be true that in many instances the uterine measurement has but little altered

*Paper read at the Congress of the British Medical Association, Glasgow, August 8, 1888.