

the ilium. It was now decided to use electricity. A strong faradic current, as strong as the patient could bear it, was passed through the mass to the right of the uterus. One pole, terminated by an olive-shaped insulated bulb, was passed into the rectum against the tumour. The other pole was a large wet sponge, applied over the mass, in the right iliac region. The current was allowed to flow from 5 to 8 minutes, and repeated daily five or six times. The size, pain and tenderness of the tumour were at first increased, but after the third application the bruit de souffle was stilled. A few days after the cessation of the electricity, the size, pain and tenderness of the tumour was much reduced. Shortly afterwards patient began to have labour-like pains, with moderate bleeding. On the second day of these symptoms, examination showed dilation of the cervix, so that the finger easily reached the fundus and cornua of the uterus, and discovered a decidua membrane being separated. This was peeled off. The bloody discharge continued a few days longer. She now improved so rapidly that towards the end of March, at her urgent request, she was allowed to leave her bed, and go to a couch in the same room. But this was unfortunate, for the tumour now became very painful and tender, the surface over it assuming a blush, and becoming oedematous. Temperature rose to 103° Fah., and altogether her condition caused much anxiety. The question of opening and draining the supposed suppurating sac was seriously considered, but she soon began to improve in every respect, and in a few weeks was able to leave her bed. On the 15th June she was examined. She is still pale and thin, but has fair appetite and digestion. Has menstruated twice and profusely. Slight pain increased by exertion. Bladder irritable. The hypogastric tumour still present, but greatly reduced in size and tenderness. Per vaginam, all evidences point to recession of the mass. The uterus measures 3½ inches, and is much firmer.

Dr. Gardner remarked upon the great interest of the subject, an interest arising out of the supposed rarity of the condition, the difficulty of diagnosis, or, perhaps, rather the rarity with which a diagnosis is made: a tragic and fatal termination alone revealing the true nature of

the case, and the recent successful procedures adopted for its treatment.

Lawson Tait has recently secured some remarkable successes by abdominal section, ligating, and excising the sac and its contents. His operations have, for the most part, been done in patients who were suffering from the symptoms of rupture with impending death. But Thomas, Lusk, Garrijes, and others in the United States, have had equally remarkable successes in averting such an occurrence by an agent so powerful, so manageable, and yet, as all experience shows, so harmless as the faradic electric current, applied as in the case now related, and in many others. It is an agent within the capacity of the merest tyro in medical knowledge. Dr. J. G. Allen, of the United States, is credited with the first cases so treated. To be used to the best advantage it must be applied early before the third month, when rupture of the sac so commonly occurs. The question of diagnosis would, of course, always be most important. This might be difficult, but would rarely be impossible if, in the presence of subjective symptoms, a careful bimanual examination (under ether, if necessary) were made. Dr. Gardner offered the case as a contribution to the literature of the subject, and believed it to be the first case of the kind published in Canada.

## THE ONTARIO MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

*(Continued from July number).*

### AFTERNOON SESSION.

Surgical section.—Dr. W. T. Aikins in the chair.

Dr. Atherton read a paper on Intestinal Obstruction, which we hope to publish in full.

Dr. Moore removed an obstruction of the bowels by introducing his hand and arm into the rectum.

Dr. Burt drew attention to some points in the diagnosis of acute peritonitis, the removal of fecal accumulation by hot water and the use of the aspirator.

Dr. Park discussed the subject, relating some cases.