

CASE OF LARGE FIBROUS POLYPUS TREATED WITH ELECTRICITY.

By A. LAPHORN SMITH, Lecturer on Gynecology.
Bishop's College.

Mrs. H. was carried into my office on the 18th of January by Drs. Cleroux and Caisse and her husband. She was brought from her home a mile distant in a sleigh, but she was in such an exhausted condition that she was on the point of fainting on arriving, and she had to rest on the sofa for half an hour before she could be placed on the examining table. Her complexion was of that waxy hue which told of frequent and prolonged hemorrhage. Her pulse was rapid and weak and her breathing hurried. Her history was as follows: Began to menstruate at the age of thirteen, always without pain and never lasting more than three days. She was married at the age of seventeen, first child at eighteen, and one every year after until she had four in all. After a proper interval she began to menstruate regularly and so continued until two years ago. When she was forty years of age her periods stopped for four months, at the end of which time she was taken with severe pain, like labour pains, and a terrible hemorrhage came on which lasted eight days, large clots coming away and from which she nearly died. Her regular medical attendant being absent in Europe Dr. Gagnon was called in, and on examining her found a large tumor occupying the vagina which it completely filled. The diagnosis was confirmed by Dr. Durocher on his return, but as medical treatment failed, and she had several other hemorrhages, Dr. Brosseau, a leading surgeon, was called in to operate. The latter found it was attached to the uterus by such a large pedicle, and the patient lay in such a state of extreme exhaustion, that he was compelled for the time to abandon the operation.

On examination I found the vagina filled by a large round or pear-shaped tumor about four inches in diameter at the

largest part, and the finger could be introduced with difficulty between it and the cervix uteri which surrounded it.

The uterus was found by the bimanual to be a little enlarged and flabby. The growth was found to be attached by a large base to the right side of the cavity for a considerable distance up. I at once told my confreres that I did not consider the case a suitable one for electricity, but with their permission I would arrange to remove it with the cold wire ecraseur, whereupon they informed me that the permission was not theirs to give as they only held the case in trust, their connection with the case being as follows: Dr. A. was called in during the absence of Dr. B. Dr. B. was the family physician who discovered the polypus and treated it until he called Dr. C., an eminent surgeon, in consultation with a view to operating.

All preparations were made, but on the day appointed she was almost pulseless, and apparently so near dying that the doctors in attendance did not dare to give her an anæsthetic.

Drs. D. and E., who lived near her, were called in a few nights later to stop a terrible hemorrhage and to try and keep her alive, which they succeeded in doing.

Drs. B., C., D. and E. decided that a few galvano punctures should be tried, with a view of diminishing the vascularity of the tumor, in order that the hemorrhage might be temporarily stopped, so as to give her a chance to pick up sufficient strength to undergo the operation. They therefore sent her to Dr. F., who has had considerable experience with Apostoli's method. He was not prepared to undertake the case, and recommended her attendants to bring her to me, which Drs. D. and E. and her husband did, as above stated. But it will be understood now why I was compelled either to treat the case with electricity, or not to treat it at all.

TREATMENT.—January 18—Negative galvano puncture, 150 milliamperes, 5 minutes,