

she might go home by the time she had received fifty applications. But after the last application she began to flow before her time, and I asked her to wait until it stopped. It lasted 17 days, a steady little stream of dark blood. I became momentarily discouraged, and advised operation, which was accepted, and I handed her over to a more experienced operator than I was at that time, but assisted at the operation. The tumor came out without the slightest difficulty, and was removed in the same way as the one mentioned above. I examined it most carefully, and the only trace of an adhesion to be found was a spot about the size of a silver five cent piece where the tumor had rubbed upon the brim of the pelvis on the right side, and where she had often complained of pain before coming to me. But there was not a sign of adhesion in the track of the electric current, nor anywhere else, except at this one spot. The hemorrhage was due to a tiny opening in a uterine sinus caused by the end of the electrode.

I dislike electricity personally, because it takes up my precious time; but I want it to get fair play, and not to be blamed for sins that are not its own.

There is one charge, however, which was frequently brought against the electrical treatment of fibroids, or rather against a method of applying it, in the past, and which was well deserved, but which is no longer applicable, because no longer employed—I refer to the method by galvano puncture.

The greatest claim for the electrical treatment of fibroids that can be made for it is that it has no mortality, that it is absolutely safe. If it is not more safe than any other treatment, or in fact unless it is absolutely free from danger, there remains only one advantage in its favor, namely, the saving of the ovaries. But galvano puncture, no matter how performed, whether by the vagina or through the abdominal wall,

must ever be a procedure fraught with danger, and is to-day practically abandoned. If anyone still uses it, in the cause of the electrical treatment of fibroids, I beseech him to use it no more. The positive pole of the galvanic current gently introduced into the uterus will accomplish our object by unseen but no less certain means. It dries up the juicy bleeding mucous membrane, and by its tonic action upon the muscular tissue through which must pass the vessels carrying nourishment to the tumor, its blood supply is cut off just as surely as though we tied the ovarian arteries which supply the body of the uterus.

The action of the electric current as applied to fibroids is threefold. The first is not mysterious; it is but the arrest of circulation in dilated capillaries by an electrochemical cautery. The second is no more difficult to understand than the action of ergot or strychnine; it not only tones up the vaso-motor system, making the calibre of the arteries less, but it calls into play the special and remarkable power which the uterus possesses of controlling its own circulation when it has the strength to contract.

The third effect of the current, its electrolytic action, is, I admit, as mysterious as it has ever been, but not more so than the invariable absorption of syphilitic gummatous deposits following the administration of iodide of potassium. Whether what we call electrolysis means the actual breaking up of an organic tissue into inorganic atoms, or whether it means, as seems more likely to me, that the growth deprived of its blood supply undergoes fatty degeneration, and is partly eaten up by phagocytosis stimulated to greater activity by the trophic nerves, no one with a large experience with this subtle fluid can deny that a uterus infiltrated with and enlarged by the deposit of fibrous tissue, whether localized in the form of fibroids or dif-