

lation of fæcal matter in the large intestines, decomposition of the same, and absorption of poisonous products thus formed. In the treatment of such cases he thought that aperients were more essential than ferruginous preparations.

There is, of course, nothing new or original in Sir Andrew's theory. Dr. Robert Barnes, many years ago, referred to the same subject, and perhaps took a more broad and correct view when he considered that there was a vascular and nervous irritability associated with the constipation in many cases of anæmia, and advised treatment of these conditions by suitable remedies, such as digitalis, salines, etc., before administering any preparations of iron.

Dr. Emmet says, concerning these cases, that no good can be accomplished by the use of tonics, so long as the tongue remains coated and the bowels overloaded; and advises, as a preliminary part of the treatment, a course of brisk purgatives. He goes on to say that those who are apparently very much debilitated are benefited by such treatment, because the temporary prostration caused by the cathartic is followed by prompt reaction. Dr. Marshall Hall and others, have advised similar treatment.

One encouraging feature about this class of patients is that intelligent, careful treatment of each case, after studying all its peculiarities, almost invariably does good—and generally a vast amount of good. It is sad to think that in these modern days of mechanical aids to diagnosis, and wondrous varieties of physiological, pathological and therapeutical appliances, such simple matters in rational treatment are so often overlooked. In fact, one would fancy from the report of Sir Andrew's paper (in brief), which appeared in the *British Medical Journals*, that he considered he was telling something rather new, until he was reminded of the contrary by Dr. Benham. Let us be careful in these scientific days not to forget the art of medicine. Science and art should, of course, not be antagonistic; but it may happen that a skilled diagnostician and a well versed pathologist will become a very poor practical therapist.

Dr. Buniu states that syphilis may be the immediate cause of impotence.

## APOSTOLI'S TREATMENT OF UTERINE FIBROIDS.

Much interest is taken in Apostol's treatment of fibrous tumours of the uterus by electrolysis. The paper of Dr. Rosebrugh, which we publish, describes well the history and methods of the treatment. A number of eminent men in Great Britain and on this continent have been carrying it out for some time, and report excellent results. Dr. Keith, of Edinburgh, is especially enthusiastic over it; and, although he has been the most successful hysterectomist in the world, unhesitatingly condemns the operation of hysterectomy, and advises a preliminary trial of Apostol's treatment in all cases.

Dr. Laphorn Smith, of Montreal, in a paper published in the *CANADIAN PRACTITIONER* last month, says: "The absolute safety of Apostol's method, and the certainty of relief from all the symptoms, render its superiority over operative procedure unquestionable." Dr. Apostol has had remarkable success, as is admitted by all who have visited his *clinique* in Paris, and others claim very good results.

It happens unfortunately, however, that this treatment, in the hands of some, has not been devoid of danger. Whether this arises from a want of skill or not, time will show. It is certainly necessary to be very cautious and careful in pursuing this treatment, as we cannot help thinking it is accompanied with some rather serious risks. At a meeting of the British Gynecological Society, held in December, Dr. Farncourt Barnes reported a case which he had under this treatment, where only two applications of the galvanic current had been tried, yet the temperature had gone up to 103°F., and the patient was apparently dying.

## LANOLIN AS AN OINTMENT BASIS.

Recent investigations shew that lanolin, or prepared wool fat, will more than realize the expectations of those who recommended it as a good basis for ointments. It has been found that it does not undergo decomposition when exposed to the air, while under like circumstances the glycerine fats soon become rancid. The experiments of Dr. Gottstein shew that, while certain kinds of bacteria connected with putrefaction