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## Original Communications.

### A NEW FLEXIBLE INTRA-UTERINE ELECTRODE FOR POSITIVE GALVANO-CAUTERIZATIONS.

By A. Laphorn Smith, Professor of Gynecology in Bishop's University, Montreal.

Among the most troublesome cases presenting themselves to the gynecologist who desires to give them the benefit of Apostoli's treatment, are those of uterine fibroids in which the canal of the uterus is so tortuous that it is impossible to introduce either Apostoli's platinum sound or his carbon electrodes mounted on a solid stem. On some of these cases I have spent as many as eight seances without having once been able to introduce the electrode beyond the internal os, and this while every day was of importance on account of the severity of the hemorrhage and the patient's growing scepticism as to the result of the treatment. In a paper entitled "Why Apostoli's Method Sometimes Fails," which I read a year ago before the Canada Medical Association, at Toronto, I pointed out that this impossibility of reaching the diseased and bleeding endometrium was due to one or several fibroids projecting into the cavity of the uterus from opposite sides so that the uterine canal was no longer straight or slightly curved but consisted of

several curves in the form of the letter "S". When a patient therefore comes to us with fibroids we should in every case begin by exploring the uterine canal with a flexible bougie which will follow all the sinuosities of the canal, and having ascertained that the depth of the canal is 5 or 6 inches we should not be satisfied with a positive electrode any shorter than this. But the question arises, how can we introduce a metal sound which will resist the action at the positive pole of the electric current? Simply by covering a flexible bougie with wire, either platinum or aluminum, for a distance of one, two, three or even four or five inches from its extremity. The first cost of platinum wire would be greater since to-day it is worth \$10.50 an ounce while aluminum wire is only worth about ten cents an ounce. In the first ones I made the wire was put on in the following way: the ivory end of a medium sized bougie was cut off and a steel wire passed down the centre until it was arrested about a quarter of an inch from the olive-pointed end. This point was marked on the outside by withdrawing the wire and measuring the distance it had entered. A needle hole was then made at this point and one end of the platinum or aluminum wire was threaded into it and passed out at the other end. The wire was then wound around onto this