

and the continued use of ergot for months and months, will accomplish more than any other line of medical treatment that I know of. It is important to remember that in not a few cases of myoma we find the endometrium more or less covered with fungoid vegetations. Here dilating the cervix and thoroughly curetting the uterus is productive of the greatest benefit, and often checks hemorrhage for months, if not entirely. The skeptical can raise objections to cases of supposed cure according to this treatment, or any line of medical treatment, and I admit there is abundant room for fallacy. Some cases disappear spontaneously, some cases cease to grow sooner than we expect, and atrophy after the menopause. Admitting all this, and yet a number of cases appear to be benefited by the above treatment.

Sometimes under the influence of this treatment, or otherwise, the tumor becomes submucous, and the uterus, treating it as a foreign body, puts forth efforts to force it out of its cavity. The continued contractions may in process of time render it sessile or pediculated.

Dilatation of the cervix and appearance of the myoma at the external os or in the vagina take place by degrees, when the lowest portion, owing to constriction, or other causes, sloughs, a foul-smelling discharge is noticed, and a not careful examination causes it to be frequently mistaken for cancer.

In more than one case has this come to my notice lately; frequent hemorrhages and fetid discharges are occurrences in the history of cancer, but with care a mistake of this kind will not occur. The myoma is removed with the ecraseur. If too large to be removed through the vagina readily, it can be pared away, and the wire loop then slipped over it and the remainder removed. But in a greater number of cases the tumors grow, the menorrhagia increases, the discomfort is more and more felt, and the general condition is daily becoming worse. What then is to be done? Formerly I divided or dilated the cervix, and in some cases got prompt relief from pain, as well as from hemorrhage. The rationale I am unable to explain, but the result is beyond all possibility of question. This little operation is not without danger, and should always be done,

as all operations about the genital canal should, under strict antiseptic precautions.

For some time past the cases that I formerly would have treated by division of the cervix and administration of ergot, I now treat with electricity. In a very few exceptional cases, I have given ergot while using the current. This was on account of the difficulty of controlling the menorrhagia—cases in which I could not always depend upon the positive current checking the hemorrhage, from not being able to use a sufficiently large dose, or other unknown causes. Indeed in a very few cases at times the hemorrhage was increased after the use of the current. Nearly all cases for the last two or three years, where hemorrhage has been a prominent symptom, have been treated in this manner. Electricity, properly dosed and properly administered, is a potent remedy in gynecological practice. To say that I have been satisfied with it in the treatment of myonia would be aside from the truth. I am rather compelled to say that I have been disappointed with it, but that has partly arisen from too great expectations; I imbibed too much enthusiasm in the enthusiastic praise of the remedy; I soon found that under the current the myomas did not disappear like dew before the sun.

Just now attempts are being made to push the pendulum to the other extreme; bitter and most severe attacks have been made upon the treatment and those who use it, and an unwarranted condemnation of it, with a too hasty trial, I fear, has been made in some quarters. In calcareous and cystic degeneration it will be found of no benefit whatever; indeed, I believe the cystic part grows more rapidly under the influence of the current. The same, I believe, occurs where a myoma and an ovarian cyst occur in the same patient.

I have witnessed a much more rapid growth of a cystoma when the large myoma masking the cyst was being treated by electricity. I have learned in this line of treatment, which some are pleased to call the latest fad in gynecology, as well as in many other lines, how difficult it is to keep one's mind free from bias, and I think I have observed the same in a few others; but I have endeavored, during my short experience, to test as best I could its efficacy in the treatment of myoma. I have always,