

Electricity.

Few remedial agents are attracting more attention or being investigated more thoroughly and scientifically at the present time than is electricity.

Long shrouded in mystery, it has been left in the hands of the charlatan and the unskilful, but it is gradually emerging from its hazy surroundings, and is being accorded its rightful place among rational modern methods of combating disease.

It occupies the entire attention of a vigorous young society—The American Electro-Therapeutic Association—most enthusiastically devoted to its interests, and composed of the engineer and expert, who study its laws and not its action upon inert matter; of the physicist and biologist, who follow up these results in their laboratories and investigate its effects on living tissue, and, finally, of the physician and surgeon, who put to a practical use the deductions of their co-laborers in this most interesting field, and determine the palliative or curative properties of the agent.

Our own city is to be congratulated in that it has not been backward in according to electricity the dignity of a special department in all the public hospitals, thus openly acknowledging its value, and electricity plays no unimportant part in many of the smaller institutions of Toronto.

Perhaps in no field has it made its presence felt more than in gynæcology; here it has joined hands with conservative surgery in sparing from mutilation many a suffering female. It has been grossly misunderstood and misapplied, consequently its failures have been as marked as its successes; but to-day its position is more secure than ever, even though its range has been narrowed beyond what was anticipated for the measure when first it claimed the attention of the gynæcologist.

In surgery it is often an alternative to more severe proceeding, and has the advantage that, properly used, it does not prejudice the case for future more radical interference where necessary. In the field of medicine it plays an essential rôle, and here its range of applicability is very wide.

Recognizing the value of electricity in these and other fields, more definite allusion to which is not possible here, we hope to place before our readers from time to time short articles on electricity of interest to the general practitioner by acknowledged authorities.