

QUARTERLY RETROSPECT OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNÆCOLOGY.

PREPARED BY WM. GARDNER, M.D.,

Professor of Gynæcology, McGill University; Gynæcologist to the Montreal General Hospital.

Beitrag zur Castrationsfrage, Contributions to the question of Castration (Removal of the Uterine Appendages.)—In a long paper under this title in the *Archiv f. Gyn.*, Bd. 29, Hft. II, based on twelve operations for myoma and ten for neuroses, Prochownick of Hamburg discusses very fully this operation, than which, perhaps, no subject within the scope of gynæcology has been so much discussed during the past year. Prochownick's contribution is a model of what the reports of such cases ought to be. Every case is fully described in all its features: conditions previous to operation; description of operation; macroscopical and microscopical examination of parts removed; the immediate result of operation; and the condition of the patient several months afterwards. Unfortunately for the prospects for arriving at a correct appreciation of the value of this much-performed operation, some of the operators of large experience furnish us with very meagre or no details on several of the points indicated. In all cases the patients had been previously treated for a time—in some, months or years. It is worthy of note that in nearly all the myoma-cases the appendages were more or less diseased. This has been a very common experience in this operation, and inasmuch as similar morbid conditions of ovaries and tubes have been found when these organs have been removed for intractable uterine hæmorrhage in the absence of myoma uteri, it is beyond a doubt that the condition of the appendages causes hæmorrhage as well as the tumors to which that symptom is so universally credited. Of the myoma cases, seven disappeared, four were much reduced, and one was extirpated. The hæmorrhage, the chief indication for the operation, was stopped in six, much lessened in four, and recurred in one. All but one recovered. The fatal case was from cerebral embolism—a not very rare mode of death in such tumors. In the ten so-called neurotic cases there were, before the operation,