

Mr. Tait's enthusiastic disciples that were unwarrantable. This question had a moral bearing which did not crop up in some other operations. An unnecessary operation of this nature was a crime against society, and it interfered with the interests of the state. He thought sterility unnecessarily induced in this way was an unmixed evil; and subjective signs alone were misleading and not to be trusted. He did not agree with Mr. Tait that the operating surgeon could under those circumstances place the responsibility on the shoulders of the general practitioner who had advised the operation in the first instance. Responsibility properly rests in this, as in all other surgical operations, on the one called in the last instance not only to do the mechanical work, but also to counsel and advise as to its necessity. He gathered from the fact that only a few (6) out of several hundred cases of epilepsy had been selected for operation, that Mr. Tait had not pronounced strongly in favour of the operation in these cases, and here he agreed with Mr. Tait.

Dr. BRUSH, of Utica, N.Y., said—He rose, with some diffidence, to make a remark or two upon the very excellent address of Mr. Tait. The subject of abdominal surgery, although falling outside of the special line in which his practice has been directed for some years—lunacy—was one in which he had always felt a deep interest. Under the tuition of Prof. Miner, of Buffalo, N.Y., his beloved preceptor, he saw some of his earlier operations which gave to the world the process of ovariectomy by enucleation, and it had been his pleasure to watch the impetus which that valuable and unique suggestion gave to abdominal surgery. He regretted that the eloquent speaker did not refer to the removal of the uterine appendages in certain cases of insanity, to hasten the menopause—but would, however, carry with him from this meeting a large amount of encouragement in the consideration of an operation which has for a long time been the subject of his thoughtful study. Prof. Wm. Goodell, of Philadelphia, has already reported a few cases, in the *American Journal of Insanity*, in which he had successfully performed Battey's operation for the relief of insanity in patients in whom there was markedly increased mental disturbance associated with the menstrual flow. With these cases in view, and bearing in mind Mr. Tait's six cases in which he operated for the relief of epilepsy, and the statement which he has made, that a mortality of not more than one in five hundred need be feared in making the operation for the removal of the uterine appendages for the relief of nervous symptoms, he would go home with increased faith in the propriety—nay, even the necessity—of the operation, in certain cases.