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## Original Communications.

### CONSTANT GALVANIC CURRENT IN GYNECOLOGY.

RESUME OF A PAPER READ BY DR. APOSTOLI  
BEFORE THE INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL  
CONGRESS AT BERLIN, AUGUST, 1890.

[Communicated specially to the CANADA MEDICAL RECORD.  
Translated by Dr. Laphorn Smith.]

First. The constant galvanic current finds its principal speciality in gynecology, in endometritis and fibroids. Sovereign against troubles of the circulation and pain (amenorrhœa, dismenorrhœa and metrorrhagia) it is a valuable assistant for arresting the progress of benign tumors and for helping to absorb peri-uterine exudations; it exercises a very beneficial resolvent action in many peri-uterine phlegmasias and in certain cases of catarrhal salpingo-ovaritis; but it is insufficient and even injurious in large doses, especially if the intra-uterine pole is negative, for suppurating inflammation of the appendages. Its varying intolerance, which increases with the inflammatory condition of the appendages, should serve as a variable means of diagnosis, pointing towards the existence, and explaining the nature of collections of fluid, either bloody or purulent, about the uterus, which may be unsuspected or only sus-

pected, and should serve to hasten in such cases, a surgical operation, which may have been put off or refused.

Second. The effects of the constant galvanic current are polar and intra-polar.

The intra-polar trophic and dynamic effect, which increases in proportion to the square of the intensity, is superadded to the polar action. The latter utilizes each pole for a different purpose. Apostoli discovered the heating effect, afterwards developed by the passage of the current (which increases the interstitial circulation), and finally the antiseptic action of the positive pole, of which Apostoli and La Guerriere have each just recently made an experimental demonstration:

Third. High galvanic applications employed in a varying manner, from 50 milliamperes in strength, according to the tolerance of the patients, and the varying clinical indications form the fundamental base of Apostoli's method, and find their justification.

(a) First, by utilizing circulatory drainage, which is the direct consequence of the calorific action due to the resistance offered to the passage of the current, and which is in proportion to the square of the intensity.

(b) In the antiseptic, or microbe-killing action which increases with the intensity.

(c) In the rapidity and efficacy of the