

responding diminution in the abdominal distension. In nearly all my cases not only of fibroids but also of endometritis in which electricity has been employed the good effects of it on the constipation have been very pronounced.

This may, perhaps, be a good opportunity for repeating an opinion I never miss a chance of expressing, that *constipation is one of the prime factors in the majority of cases of diseases of women.*

I can hardly find a case in my note book which does not contain the note, bowels have always been confined. Surely I have not erred in teaching that the first step in any and every case of diseases of women is to get the bowels regular so as to remove the obstruction to the venous circulation.

There is one thing about Apostoli's treatment which every one who has given it a trial is agreed upon, and that is that it never fails to arrest hemorrhage in fibroids and endometritis. Now this is all that Mr. Tait claims to do by removal of the appendages, and although this operation in Mr. Tait's hands is almost devoid of danger, that does not make it easy or safe in the hands of the general practitioner under whose care the patients come. There is very little satisfaction to a woman who has been confined to her bed for years with exhausting hemorrhages, to be told that she can have them stopped by an operation which has only a small death rate in the hands of Mr. Tait. Even if she could be operated on by him she would not even then be sure of relief. On the other hand, several hundred cases are on record in which several years after treatment by Apostoli's method the arrest of the hemorrhage has proved to be permanent. I have the highest esteem for the diagnostic skill and manual dexterity of Mr. Tait, but I do not think he has been just to my friend and teacher, Apostoli, when he basis his belief in Apostoli's honesty and veracity upon the hearsay evidence of some of his Paris rivals rather than on his own personal investigation. How much better the course pursued by Sir Spencer Wells, who sent a trusty observer to spend a year with Apostoli in studying the value of the treatment, and on his favorable report, going over himself to verify his observations, and then publicly giving Apostoli his hearty endorsement. Apostoli may be enthusiastic, as all inventors are, and some may

have over-estimated the value of his treatment, but the tendency of human nature to jog along in the old groove is so great that all his enthusiasm is more than needed in order to drag along the body of the profession in the march of so great an advance. I cannot close without protesting against the assertion that there is any danger connected with Apostoli's treatment. I have seen none during the two years that I have been using it many times a day. I had one narrow escape, when nothing but a kind Providence saved me and the credit of the method. A patient who had been treated by me was so enthusiastic about it that she brought a friend, who was a great sufferer, to undergo the same treatment. By great good luck I had been called out of town by telegram a few hours before and missed her. At eleven o'clock that night something gave way inside of her, and in a few hours she was dead. I have no doubt that if I had even seen her when she came to me, that I would have had to shoulder for all time one death under Apostoli's treatment. I have not only had no accidents, except one miscarriage which I reported, but every patient has felt better after the first application; and I candidly maintain that I do not see how a single death can ever be justly attributed to the method. It is the simplest and safest treatment of which I am aware, and it does not mutilate the patient for life, as do other methods of treatment, but it actually restores to her faculties and functions of which she had been previously deprived. I cannot trespass sufficiently on the space of this journal to report even briefly all my cases treated by this method, but I have taken twelve consecutive ones from my note book and condensed them as follows, but there are a great many others which I shall tabulate on a future occasion, of dysmenorrhœa, ovarian, tubal and uterine, of pelvic pain due to pelvic exudation, of ovarian neuralgia, of varicocele of the broad ligaments, of prolapsus of the ovary and uterus from passive congestion of these organs, which have been either cured or relieved so much that the patient was satisfied. I do not deny that I have had one failure and a few partial failures, but I maintain that even these are rather owing to want of experience due to the newness of the method than to the inability of electricity to remove the pathological conditions. Before the 9th International Congress I