

social as well as a medical aspect; but I do not arrogate to myself any preparedness not possessed by others. I may say, however, I have more than once prevented the operation, and I have been afterwards thanked for it, and another then unborn generation has been advantaged by it. I admit there are cases where a diseased condition of the ovaries or tubes demands surgical interference; but those are not cases where every objective sign is absent, and where the symptoms detailed by a hysterical woman are the only guide.

Discussion.—Dr. TRENIHOLME did not believe that gynaecology, as a branch of surgery, would ever lose its importance; its utility was undoubted. With regard to spaying, the speaker expressed his belief that it would be better if every insane person could be prevented from propagating his species, and the same could be said of criminals. He gave an account of a case where one noted criminal marrying another had given rise to a race of no fewer than 176 noted criminals, male and female. With regard to the utility of abdominal sections, he could only say that in his experience more than 90 per cent. were cured of undoubted and often intense suffering. He did not think that patients suffering from pyosalpinx or hydrosalpinx when over 40 years of age required operative measures, but believed in operating on in all cases where patient was 28 to 30 years old.

Dr. GARDNER agreed with Dr. Hingston that there should be objective signs to justify operation, except in a few cases—e.g., cirrhotic ovaries. Dr. Bantock gives many cases of diminution of ovaries which produced intense suffering, but which were cured by operation. With regard to the removal of ovaries for myomata, it is known that many myomata may exist for life without producing the smallest danger or even discomfort. On the other hand, these tumors may produce dangerous hemorrhages or intense pain, and ovariectomy, as a rule, gives relief. With regard to neuroses, we have still much to learn about the effect of the ovaries on the nervous system. Pelvic pain is often undoubtedly of central origin, yet in many cases it is due to the ovaries. In selecting proper cases for operation in neuroses, we require experience. This, however, will come in time.

Dr. SHEPHERD remarked that nervous affections were now treated by operations on the eyes instead of ovariectomies. Cutting the eye muscles is a recent mode of treatment for epilepsy and insanity. Many cures are claimed for this method of treatment.

Dr. HINGSTON, in reply, stated that he did not wish to depreciate gynaecology, but he did wish to denounce this wholesale operation for subjective symptoms. Such recognized authorities as Spencer Wells, Keith and Emmet speak in much stronger terms than he. The *London Lancet* has for some time refused to publish the papers of these wholesale ovariectomists. He believed that if men like Lawson Tait and Savage, who operate for subjective symptoms, are to be imitated by men with less judgment, it would lead to unlimited operating. Every hysterical girl with pelvic pain would be a fit subject for ovariectomy. With regard to ovarian fibroma, he could cite very many cases in his own practice of women who have had uterine fibromata all their lives without causing them any discomfort. Otis claims to have cured neurosis by circumcision, and contends that many forms of epilepsy can be thus cured. Ovariectomy is the modern fashion in surgery, just as the now almost discarded Syme's external urethrotomy was the fashion a few years ago.

Correspondence.

PARIS, 8th MAY, 1887.

DEAR RECORD,—In my last letter I told you that I would in my next endeavor to give your readers some idea of Apostoli's method of employing electricity in Gynaecology. I was the more anxious to acquaint myself with his process, because I have always held the view that most of the diseases of the female generative organs depended on disordered innervation, circulation, and nutrition, and that the only sure cure for these diseases would be found in a system of therapeutics, which would directly re-establish these functions. This then was the main object of my visit, and in Dr. Apostoli I found my wish fully gratified. After a pleasant lunch at the magnificent club, which has a membership of eighteen hundred scientific and literary men, and where I made the acquaintance of Paquelin, and several others whose names are known to fame, Dr. Apostoli took me with him to his private clinic at the *Halles*, and introduced me at once to his instruments, which, I must confess, had hitherto been somewhat strangers to me. They were as follows:

1st. A battery of sixty Leclanché cells, connected in what is called series of tension, that is