

use. One thing more than any other which has militated against its use is, that until within the last few years the instruments in use have been very imperfect, uncertain, uncontrollable, and not possessing any arrangements for its proper application. This has been overcome to a great extent in the improved make of machines and appliances. The Galvano-Faradic Company of New York are solely engaged in the manufacture of electrical instruments for Medical use. Their instruments are well got up, portable, reliable, clean, and require very little attention. They are quite under control, and possess a wide range of vibration. For some forms of paralysis and rheumatism they are preferable to any other.

Dr. Kidder, of New York, also manufactures a very superior instrument. It is very smooth in its action, never fails when wanted, and the most delicate organ can be operated on by it. It is well adapted to extremely nervous persons. A good deal of confusion seems to have arisen in reference to the various forms of electricity, owing to the employment of so many different terms expressive of the kind of current employed. All this may be avoided however if we recollect that aside from magnetism and static electricity there are but two forms manifest—galvanic and faradic electricity—with the first of these the terms primary, constant and continuous are synonymous; with the second the terms secondary, induced and interrupted exactly agree. The former affects powerfully by reflex as well as by direct action. It has power to stimulate directly the brain, spinal cord, and great sympathetic; and is preferred in the treatment of many forms of central disease. The latter works slightly by reflex action, having but little power to influence directly the brain or spinal cord. The galvanic is therefore used in deep-seated affections of the brain and spinal cord, to produce contraction of paralyzed muscles that fail to respond to the faradic, and in electro-surgery to produce electrolysis or cauterization. The faradic, on the other hand, is used when it is required to act mildly on the nerve centres, to excite muscular contraction when the muscles are capable of responding, and to produce strong mechanical effects. The electrolytic power of the galvanic current has within the past few years, been repeatedly used in the treatment of morbid growths, and has been found sufficient in many cases to dissipate tumors, both malignant and non-malignant. It seems also to possess the property of destroying the reproductive power of malignant growths. Improved appli-