

and the majority of them, after waiting a few minutes, dressed and left the dispensary, evidently unaffected by the application.

"Dr. Apostoli stated that in no case had any serious consequences followed the method—a result, I think, to be attributed partly to his attention to thorough antisepsis, and also to his making the tolerance of the patient the measure of the strength of the application. To my mind this treatment opens up a hitherto neglected and very hopeful era in the therapeutics of uterine diseases, which is now only beginning to receive a full measure of recognition by gynecologists. Dr. Apostoli has had a considerable number of American visitors, some of whom, since their return to their own country, have carried out the treatment with gratifying success; and during my own visit Mr. Skene Keith and Dr. Philip, of Edinburgh, shared with me in the valuable lessons the cases taught.

"My thanks are due, first, to Dr. Apostoli for the courtesy which he showed me; and, secondly, to Dr. Webb, through whom my visit to Paris was made."

Dr. W. S. Playfair also visited the *clinique* of Dr. Apostoli in May last, and reports as follows: "Of this method of treatment I saw quite enough to convince me that it was one of great power, and capable, in skilled hands, of producing very striking results. I was specially impressed with certain cases I examined of bleeding fibroids. In more than one of these the patients assured me that they had been completely prostrated with continuous hemorrhages, which had deprived them of all power of following their usual avocations, and which had lasted for long periods, and that after not more than four or five applications of positive electrocauterisation of the uterine cavity, the hemorrhages had entirely ceased, and that they were now able to work as if in perfect health, and with not more than the usual monthly loss. In some of these I am quite confident that in this country laparotomy, or the removal of the uterine appendages, would have been performed; and in more than one of them I felt sure that, under the existing conditions, I should myself have advised the latter operation as the only possible means of cure. I also investigated several cases of chronic peri-metric inflammatory

tion with intense pelvic pains of many years' duration, in which I am equally sure the removal of the uterine appendages would, amongst us, have been either considered or practised. If, therefore, a means exists in which, even in a few cases, a cure can be effected without a mutilating operation, which, even when sanctioning or performing it with a conviction of its necessity, must always be a source of deep regret, then surely a great advance is being made, and I trust the subject will receive careful study."

In July Dr. Woodham Webb writes as follows:

"Finally, and as the result of eight months' incessant observation, and of my own experience in the treatment of cases in conjunction with Dr. Apostoli, I can unhesitatingly assure those who are interested in the question, operators or operatees, that the conclusions at which I arrived at an early period of my investigations as to the value of the therapeutic influence of electricity in cases of uterine fibroids, used after the manner I have described, with a view to introduce it to the notice of English surgeons, are more than confirmed by my longer acquaintance with the subject. It is also worth mentioning that they have met with the assent of all, including such authorities as Sir Spencer Wells, Keith, and Dr. Playfair, who have been induced by what I have written to visit the *clinique*, and examine the evidence for themselves. Some, indeed, have at once resolved to adopt the practice, and others, who are not disposed to undertake a task which requires so much quiet perseverance and familiarity with technical details, have confided their patients to our care. These cases I shall hereafter publish, when time has proved that the benefits received are as permanent as those recorded of his own patients by Dr. Apostoli."

#### OPERATIVE PROCEDURE.

The Apostoli treatment has also been fully endorsed by T. A. Reamy, W. H. Baker, R. S. Sutton, J. B. Hunter, and M. D. Mann, of the United States; Semeleder, of Mexico; Gardner and Lapthorn Smith, of Montreal; as well as by Engelmann, of St. Louis, and Martin, of Chicago, already referred to.

(To be continued.)