The number and frequency of the injections must vary with the nature of each case, and therefore must be decided by the practitioner at the time, but it is necessary to bear in mind the fact that the first, and possibly the second, injection is often followed after the lapse of a few hours by some bleeding. This is specially the case if the curette has not been previously used, and it is probably due to the action of the phenol causing the superficial layer of mucous membrane to peel off rapidly, leaving a vascular surface exposed, which bleeds sometimes freely. This bleeding is of no importance, but sometimes alarms the patient, and she should be told that it may occur. If it continue after the injections have been repeated three or four times, it generally indicates that patches of large and vascular granulations exist, which, if the curette has been used, have escaped its action, and, whether it has been used or not, proves that the further use of intrauterine injections will be useless.

I am far from wishing it to be understood that I deem this treatment applicable to even the majority of cases of disease of uterine cavity, but I believe that it will frequently render the use of the curette unnecessary, and that, if not always essential, it is so in the majority, and useful in all those in which curetting has been practised, while in cases where uterine catarrh is present great benefit will often be derived from the practice.

TOTAL DISAPPEARANCE OF A FIBROID TUMOUR AFTER DR. APOSTOLI'S TREATMENT.

By SKENE KEITH, M.B., F.R.C.S. Ed.

THE history of the following case of fibroid tumour of the uterus is of interest, as not only has there been the symptomatic cure which is aimed at by the use of the galvanic current, but there has been also the much less important physical cure, the disappearance of the tumour itself. It is well known that the passage of the galvanic current does not cause the total dispersion of tumours of large size, and in this it resembles the treatment by removal of the ovaries; as, in many cases treated by this operation, the tumour remains, more or less, while the symptoms are cured in the great majority of cases. There is, however, this great drawback, that, after successful operation, the patient has lost something; she has still, as a rule, a tumour, she has a scar which may stretch, extending through the thickness of the abdominal wall, and she is not the perfect woman she was, because she has lost her ovaries. She has, therefore, been cured symptomatically, but at the expense of a grave mutilation. When a patient has been treated successfully with galvanism, she has still, as a rule, a tumour; she does not have any weak spot in the abdominal wall, and she is still a perfect woman. Now, as an attempt has been made to hang the fate of Dr. Apostoli's treatment upon the question of the total disappearance of tumours, it is necessary to repeat that this is not an essential accompaniment of the treatment, though it does sometimes happen in the case of small tumours; and it may be, that, when those growths are treated more frequently in the early state, we shall find that it will occur more often. Whether this be so or not is of little importance, so long as the symptoms are cured and the growth arrested.

It has been said that a living and healthy woman with a tumour is a more satisfactory sight than a dead woman after hysterectomy; and how many of the latter there have been in the past twenty years no one will ever know, simply because the surgeons, except Dr. Keith, have never dared to give their results, for the mortality is too great for publication, at least in the early cases.

The following are the notes of a case of total disappearance of a fibroid tumour of the uterus after Dr. Apostoli's treatment; and, what is of far greater importance, the complete restoration to health of the patient. Dr. Keith first saw the lady in consultation with Dr. Butt in July, 1889. She was 29 years of age, and said that since the birth of their only child, now ten years of age, she had not felt quite well. There had not been any difficulty with the labour, but the lady did

not recover her strength after it, and in addition to the debility there was some increase in pain at the time of the monthly periods. She has suffered from dysmenorrhœa all her life. After a time the monthly flow became increased, both in quantity and in duration, until it never lasted for less than two, and sometimes for three, weeks. Three specialists had been consulted, but any relief had been only of a temporary kind.

In July, 1889, this young married lady was useless; she could scarcely walk, she suffered constantly from pain in the back and pelvis; the monthly periods never lasted for a shorter time than two weeks, and she required to use fifty, sixty, or seventy diapers. On examination, the pelvis was found to be filled by a fibroid tumour of the uterus; the sound passed with a backward curve for 4 inches.

A few years ago, but one course of treatment could have been recommended—namely, removal of the ovaries. This operation would almost certainly have resulted in a complete, though not in a perfect, cure; for it cannot be said that any treatment which leaves a woman in a mutilated condition is perfect. It is a decidedly retrogressive step, and an acknowledgment of failure, when we have to cure one disease by the removal of an organ or organs, unless they be already hopelessly destroyed. Instead of this mutilating process, treatment by electricity was advised, in the hope that by this means the lady might be restored to health, a physically whole and not an unsexed woman. Removal of healthy ovaries for the purpose of curing a disease in a different organ is on an entirely different footing from that of removing disorganised ovaries, the woman being already unsexed by the disease. In the first case such a procedure mutilates her; in the second the disease has already done so.

The treatment by Dr. Apostoli's electrical method was completed by the end of the year, half before and the remainder after the autumn vacation. The number of applications made was thirty; the average strength was 88 milliamperes, and each sitting lasted for five minutes. The treatment was begun at the patient's house; before it was finished she was able to drive two miles before and the same distance after the applications. By the time that the course was finished there was marked improvement in every respect, and the tumour had become reduced in size.

Six months afterwards the lady was much better; she did not have any pain, she could walk well, and the number of diapers required was reduced to twenty. The tumour had become smaller. In February, 1891, the patient called to see if everything were right, as the quantity of blood lost every month was steadily becoming less. On examination, a small, healthy, retroverted uterus was found, with a cavity $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length. As the backward displacement of the uterus did not give rise to any symptoms treatment was not required.

Now, in the beginning of 1892, the lady writes that she is perfectly well, and that she uses three or four napkins every month.

It has been suggested that it is sometimes not possible to diagnose a fibroid tumour of the uterus, even with the help of an exploratory incision; and, of course, it will ever be impossible to bring conviction to the minds of those who provide this loophole for holding to their disbelief, with some show of plausibility, in any and every case treated by electricity. It is, however, a matter of minor importance whether they do or do not believe that tumours may sometimes disappear; because the treatment is directed to the symptomatic cure only, and not to the disappearance of the growths themselves; and it is in this respect exactly parallel with the operation of removal of the ovaries for fibroid; a good procedure, just so long as we had nothing better to offer, and which we can always fall back on, under special circumstances, if it be not advisable to use Dr. Apostoli's treatment, or should it fail in any case favourable for this operation. No one plan of treatment is the best for every case.

A PROPOSAL is now before the Paris Municipal Council to change the name of the Lourcine (Female Lock) Hospital to the Hôpital Broca. The object of the proposed change is apparently not so much to do honour to the memory of a distinguished man, as for the sake of certain supposed "moral advantages," to hide the nature and purpose of the institution under the shadow of an illustrious name.