

SOME OF THE DIAGNOSTIC AND THERAPEUTIC USES OF THE ROENTGEN RAYS.

THE Roentgen ray, as a diagnostic agent, is no longer an experiment. Its growth has been phenomenal. It came up through the stage of criticism with unprecedented rapidity, receiving few scars and for these it is therapeutically the richer. That too much has been claimed for the ray in certain quarters seems tolerably certain, but it is equally true that inexperience and inferior apparatus have not infrequently discounted its true value. Its real enemies at the present moment are its rash, inexperienced and self-seeking advocates.

Some physicians would limit its use to the detection of foreign bodies and the recognition of certain fractures and dislocations, but these are the limitations of its natal day ; as well might we limit the use of the microscope to the recognition of the grosser tissue-elements.

With a view to demonstrating its wider range of usefulness, I have collected from my notes covering a period of upwards of six years the necessary data for this paper.

Foreign bodies.—The following have been located in various parts of the body : bullets, shot, needles, coins, slate pencils, pieces of glass, iron and copper.

The following case of bullet-wound is interesting as showing the tolerance of certain portions of the brain :—

A. L., aged 35, admitted to the hospital Nov. 5th, 1898. Service of Dr. Garrett. Referred for examination by Dr. Emery, Gananoque.

The bullet, a 32, entered the external meatus of the right ear and lodged, as the X-rays showed, in the right frontal lobe two centimetres from the angle of junction of the horizontal and vertical portions of the frontal bone and directly over the centre of the right orbit. Dr. Emery dressed the external wound a few minutes after the accident. No symptoms fol-