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THE SPECIFIC ACTION OF RADIUM ON CERTAIN TUMORS AND ON CERTAIN REBELLIOUS SKIN-DISEASES.*

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Gentlemen,—In Paris last year, at the ninth French Medical Congress, we read an article on the rebuilding of the tissue which comes after the exulcerative reactions caused by radium.

As a result of it, the erroneous belief has arisen with many of our professional brethren that our experiments turned out as we desired only after a necessary period of revulsion and exulceration.

To be sure, in the treatment of some diseases (pigmentary naevus¹, tuberculosis², scarred fibro-sclerous frenum, etc.) it is necessary to fall back upon the destructive power of radium; and, as a rule, the remarkable manner in which the new growth takes place of its own accord makes us feel confident that occasion may frequently demand the use of this method.

However, it would be strangely lowering the true value of radium and ignoring the biological interest which is inseparable from it, to limit its action in that way.

In many cases radium is, first and foremost, an agent of special election, which acts as a specific remedy and deserves this

* Tenth French Medical Congress, Geneva, September 3rd to 5th, 1908.