

P615.84
A145r

RADIUM AND ITS ACTION ON CERTAIN DISEASES

BY DR. W. H. B. M.

Radium was discovered in Paris by Marie and Mme. Skłodowska Curie in 1898.

In 1901 the action of radium was demonstrated in an accident to M. Becquerel, who in 1896 had discovered it. He was carrying a small quantity of radium in his vest pocket, and a few days later the skin lying beneath it had been resting was found to be inflamed. M. Besmir attributed it to the action of radium.

P. Curie then made a voluntary experiment on her own arm, and the experience was conclusive as to the action of radium on the skin, and thinking that the properties of radium had a therapeutic value, she confided a sample to M. Danlos, physician at the Hospital of St. Louis. This was the point of departure for the use of radium in physiotherapy, and to-day the qualities of radium as a therapeutic agent are fully established.

As a result of earnest work on this subject, carried on with much patience by Dr. Loucheur, a dermatologist of great note, physician at the Hospital of St. Louis, Paris, and also at the surgical clinic of the Hospital of St. Louis, the Laboratory for Radium in Paris was established.

There are many workers who have been engaged in the establishment of this Laboratory, and it is to them, when Dr. Wickham took charge of the Laboratory, that great scientific acumen to bear upon this subject personally and in collaboration with Dr. Wickham. Through the principle of radium therapy, the use of radium incident to its use has been eliminated, and the use of radium has been more accurate, and in the hands of competent men the value of this therapy has been established on a firm basis. Dr. Wickham p

* Read at meeting of the Section of Medicine, November 1911.