

seemed to indicate the long-continued influence of this strange therapeutic agent.

In quite a number of cases the X-ray alone is capable of curing epithelioma. This is especially true of superficial epithelioma in the region of the eyes, and on the sides of the nose. In regard to the eyelids this is particularly fortunate, as this is a difficult region to operate in, and also one in which it is hard to secure a good plastic result. Then, again, there is another admirable feature of the X-ray, where it is successful. It leaves a small and very smooth scar. In fact, in many instances, the word scar is inappropriate as applied to the almost imperceptible macule that is left.

The treatment is not always painless, because, if a lively reaction results, the pain may be quite severe, and the bleeding or ichorous discharge may be considerable. But, in a large number of cases, if a milder treatment is adopted, there is no pain whatever. For aged or feeble people who cannot stand hardships this is a decided advantage over the harsher treatments by curetting, excision, or cauterization.

Although at times the X-ray clears up an epithelioma in a remarkably short time, and in an ideal way, both as regards the size and the character of the scar, and the painlessness of the procedure, yet one can never be absolutely sure that it will cure, and, unfortunately, a long time is required to prove this.

In order to bring out clearly this objection, let us imagine a patient coming to the city to be treated for epithelioma. The treatment can be said to last for at least eighteen days, or for nine sittings. At the end of this time very little change may be apparent. One must wait to see if healing will take place, say another ten days. If, at the end of that time, no change is observable, from the point of view of the patient, the treatment has been an expensive failure. Sometimes even around the nose, where ordinarily the X-ray is so successful, it may fail, as in the following instance: A woman, aged 77, was referred to me by Dr. Wickman, of San Rafael, for the treatment of an epithelioma involving the whole tip of the nose. It presented a large, bright red, granulating surface involving the whole nose tip, and invading the right cheek. X-ray treatment was begun October 6th, 1902, and between that time and November 6th, she received about ten treatments, some of which were quite close (two and a half, and one and a half inches). There was very little effect from the X-ray at all, and the patient was suffering a great deal from bleeding and discomfort. I then burned the surface with caustic potash. This acted much better and the sore began to clear off, but it was not doing as well as it was considered it should. On December 18th, 1902, I painted the whole surface with arsenious acid gelanthum paste. A tre-