

RADIUM: ITS VALUE IN MEDICINE.*

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The following serves to explain the accompanying photographs of cases treated by the aid of radium. The paper is virtually an abstract of a chapter contributed to the "International Clinics," Vol. IV., Series XIV., published by Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia.

When radium of at least 7,000 activity, contained in hermetically sealed tube, is placed on the unbroken skin for a period of at least three hours, it may produce an irritation which may finally result in ulceration of the skin.

When tubes containing radium of 15 grains each of from 40 to 100 activity, and tubes of 20 milligrams of 7,000 activity are placed on ulcerated areas, they produce sensations not unlike the feeling one experiences in a burn when standing near a hot stove. The radium also causes a peculiar pink injection of the ulcerated and surrounding tissues, which may last for a few hours to as long as twenty-four hours.

From very careful observations no difference could be noticed in the physical or therapeutic results, when using radium of 100 activity or 7,000 activity.

REPORT OF CASES.

In all cases the tubes containing radium were placed directly on the area to be treated and held in place by strips of adhesive plaster. The tubes of radium varied from 40 activity to 7,000. A treatment was given every three or four days and for thirty-five to forty-five minutes each time. No internal treatment was given, and excepting the application of hot water to the parts no local treatment whatsoever was used.

CASE 1. —Rodent ulcer in a woman, aged 57, extending from the middle of the right supra-orbital ridge to within two and one-half centimetres of the ear and well down on the cheek, causing a loss of the eye. X-ray had been applied for a period of eight months, but the ulcer continued to spread. Applied tubes of radium of low activity on April 14th, 1904; after fifteen days the ulcerated surface had healed over. The photograph, taken after forty days, shows entire ulcerated surface replaced by fine white scar tissue. This case has remained well for more than one year.

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