

graphy is likely to have in military surgery. It is, we believe, by no means improbable that even in the field hospitals connected with our African expeditions it will be found possible to use the now greatly perfected apparatus for the more accurate diagnosis and treatment of wounds and injuries from the presence of foreign bodies and bullets in the body. At the Netley Hospital Medical School this week, Mr. Sydney Rowland attended by invitation of Surgeon-Colonel Stevenson, and gave information concerning the most advanced application of the Roentgen rays for purposes of military surgery, taking on the spot successful photographs of the bones in a rare case of fracture into the knee-joint, of which excellent negatives were developed. Special arrangements were discussed by which the needful apparatus could be put into a highly portable form, and, with some modification of present methods, adapted to field use, even in the desert.—*British Medical Journal*.

RADICAL CURE BY FIRE.—The Harris District Committee of the Inverness-shire County Council have made a proposal to the Public Health Committee to destroy by fire several hundred of the "black houses" in Harris for sanitary reasons, and to apply to the government for a grant towards the cost of building new dwellings in place of those destroyed. Dr. Ogilvie Grant, county medical officer, submitted a report upon the subject, which presents a most melancholy picture of the existing condition of affairs. These houses consist of three compartments, with a single door of entrance. The first compartment is used for housing the cattle, and there the manure is allowed to accumulate for a twelvemonth at a time. The second compartment, or kitchen, is separated from the first by a rudely constructed wooden partition; sometimes there is no partition at all. The innermost compartment is the bedroom, occupied by the whole family, irrespective of age or sex. The walls have a stone facing within and without, the centre being filled in with earth, which is kept damp by the rain passing through the roof. The fire is in the middle of the floor, and the smoke escapes as it may. Typhus, typhoid, phthisis, and a high infantile mortality follow in the train of these conditions. The legal remedy is, of course, to close the houses; but such a measure would simply result in turning the inmates out on the moors. The tenants, crofters and cottars, have not the wherewithal to provide better houses. The people, Dr. Grant says, are most industrious in the manufacture of Harris tweeds, but the remuneration is scanty. The proposal is that the government should come to the aid of these people, and provide a grant out of which the necessary wood fittings and lime would be supplied for the erection of more wholesome dwellings. The problem is a difficult one, but under the exceptional circumstances of the case the proposal would appear to be not an unreasonable one.—*British Medical Journal*.