

the X-ray treatment gives a very gratifying result; in these cases it is decidedly the best method of treatment to be employed, and here I should say the X-ray is a great and valuable addition to our armamentarium. I have seen lesions of considerable extent in these regions removed without any noticeable injury to the tissues of the eyelids.

The X-rays can be considered superior to caustics or the knife in all cases of superficial epithelioma covering a large area of two or more inches in diameter, with the exception of lesions on the scrotum. In the case of smaller lesions the location should determine the method of treatment. (I am supposing, of course, that the patient has the time and money for any method of treatment considered the best for him as regards removal of the disease.) If the lesion is around the eye, occupying a part of the lid, the rays give the best result, but on all other parts of the body a proper caustic gives results in a few minutes or hours equally as good as those obtained by the rays, and in some cases excision is a very satisfactory method of removal.

In each individual case, the decision as to the form of treatment to be adopted should be made from the standpoint of the patient, and not of the operator.

There are many cases of epithelioma of the superficial form in which there is a great tendency to reappearance or recurrence after apparent cure. The normal relationship between the epithelium and the connective tissue is changed, or there is a rebellious nature in the epithelial cells, or there may be other underlying causes of epithelioma, at any rate new lesions continue to appear. Such cases should be treated with the rays, with or without other local agents, and with such drugs internally as thyroid extract, and possibly also arsenic, with the object of changing the nutritive condition of the part. In this case treatment by the rays gives better results than by caustics or excision.

I have had under my care for one year a case of that rare disease, xeroderma pigmentosum. There were about fifteen carcinomatous growths varying in size from that of a large filbert to that of a pea, situated upon different parts of the face, one occupying the greater part of the left upper eyelid. All the lesions except two large ones disappeared after a few months' treatment by thyroid extract; at the same time there was very marked diminution in the pigmentation and angiomatous condition on the face, neck, forearms and hands. To remove the two remaining lesions that by the thyroid extract had been reduced to about half the size they were when first observed, I have used the X-rays, but the result has not been satisfactory. Five minutes' treatment with a low tube ten inches from the target would be followed by considerable erythema and tenderness. A more resistant tube would also produce unpleasant conditions in nearly the same length of time.