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THE ROLE OF RADIUM IN SURGERY IN THE TREAT- MENT OF CANCER (GRAVE)

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The studies which we have made during the last five years on cancerous tissues which have been subjected to the influence of radium have shown clearly, as was easy to foresee, that if the action of radium, well-handled, was often favorable, it could lay claim to local results only; further, in statistics regarding cancer of a more serious nature, for the treatment of which radium was used, we must not rest satisfied merely with watching the tumor diminish, but must consider more particularly the future of the patient, which is quite a different matter; for even in cases where tumors have entirely disappeared without any local return, we have seen very frequently, as a result, metastases produced which can neither be operated upon nor treated. Nevertheless, even thus limited in its rôle, radium offers to patients resources clearly appreciable and useful in varying degrees.

Now, the aim of this article is to establish the theory that these resources are real only on condition that radium therapy be aided and controlled by surgery.

This association is to be established as a principle. Not only will this result in guiding the movement of present-day radium therapy towards a wise practice, calculated to safeguard the patient from inopportune applications which deprive him of the benefit which might accrue from other methods of procedure, but it will also secure the best results from the use of radium.