

6. In the recognition of foreign bodies the skiagraph is of the very greatest value ; in their localization it has occasionally failed. The mistakes recorded in the former case should easily have been avoided ; in the latter they are becoming less and less frequent, and by the employment of accurate mathematical methods can probably in time be eliminated. In the meantime, however, the surgeon who bases an important operation on the localization of a foreign body buried in the tissues should remember the possibility of error that still exists.

7. It has not seemed worth while to attempt a review of the situation from the strictly legal stand-point. It would vary in different States and with different judges to interpret the law. The evidence shows however, that in many places and under many differing circumstances the skiagraph will undoubtedly be a factor in medico-legal cases.

8. The technicalities of its production, the manipulation of the apparatus etc., are already in the hands of specialists, and with that subject also it has not seemed worth while to deal. But it is earnestly recommended that the surgeon should so familiarize himself with the appearance of skiagraphs, with their distortions, with the relative values of their shadows and outlines, as to be himself the judge of their teachings, and not depend upon the interpretation of others who lack the wide experience with surgical injury and disease necessary for the correct reading of these pictures.

[These conclusions were unanimously adopted as expressing the views of the American Surgical Association.]