

and within a few days the whole world knew that a hitherto unknown scientist had made a discovery that will revolutionize many ideas scientific. Ever since that time the press, both public and scientific, has been replete with the wonders of the unknown rays. For some time the discovery was looked upon as something too unreal to be seriously thought of; but as the full details became known, and as other investigators began to report their confirmation of the experiments announced, the incredulous had to abandon their position and admit that there really was something new under the sun. To-day all doubts have vanished, and all are pushing forward to increase the applicability of the new ray.

To us, as medical men, it has opened up a great field by perfecting our ability of diagnosis in obscure bone lesions, in the locating of foreign bodies in the limbs, a possibility of making certain of the presence of kidney calculi, in joint lesions, and many other conditions that I cannot mention. We must not expect too much, or we are bound to be disappointed.

The result obtained by the "X" ray is not a sharply defined photograph, but is a shadow picture—a skiagraph. We all know that shadows are more clearly defined by the nearness with which the object is placed to the screen on which the shadow is projected. More or less space must intervene between the object and the photographic plate in all of these cases, and that must be at the expense of sharpness of definition. Time of exposure is, at present, a very serious drawback to the use of these rays in medical diagnosis, but this is being materially reduced from day to day. The tube becomes heated so rapidly with the current from a coil giving a sufficient spark to produce good results that a much longer time of rest is required before the current can be again turned on. The tube used to produce the results here presented was heated in ten seconds to such an extent that it required twenty seconds to cool. The time of keeping the part under exposure is really, therefore, three times that of the actual exposure, but this will be overcome by some form of water jacket surrounding the tube, made of celluloid or aluminium. It would be easily done now if a glass cone could be utilized, but it cannot, as the rays will not pass through glass. Edison has announced a celluloid cup, but the results are not yet known.

The method adopted by the workers at the School of Practical Science here of using a bell jar has not proved as useful in medical subjects as it did for other objects, the refraction of the rays dimming the outline of the part. I have found that by surrounding the upper part of the tube with a funnel-shaped piece of tea lead the rays can be concentrated without the dimming effect on the border line.

Though the results attained by these rays are familiar to everyone, the