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STATIC ELECTRICITY AND X-RAY IN GENERAL PRACTICE.*

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In introducing this subject I feel under obligation to apologize for its wide scope, but it will permit me to make some general remarks, and bring before you a few cases, some of which received a combined treatment of static electricity and X-ray. In this short paper I shall not endeavor to treat this subject from the scientific standpoint of the electro-therapist or radiologist, but from the ground of utility to the surgeon and general practitioner. Perhaps I could not more aptly demonstrate the uses of static electricity and its various modalities, than to use the illustration of comparing it with the use of some known drug, such as opium. We find that opium contains no less than eighteen different alkaloids, each possessing a specific virtue of its own. Then we have twelve officinal preparations, giving us in all thirty specific substances.

Now, static electricity has nearly as many modalities, each one with its own specific mode of application and therapeutic results.

Electricity is not all a mystery, but an agent capable of doing much good when properly selected and applied, but capable of much harm if improperly made use of. All that may be said of drugs applies equally to electricity, and *vice versa*. Electricity,

*Read at May Meeting of the Lambton Medical Association.