

In cases of fairly large vascular angiomata, associated with the development of a moderate amount of fibrous tissue, a more destructive action is advisable, and this may be obtained by exposure to the unfiltered rays for three or four hours at a sitting; or a similar result may be obtained without so severe a reaction by using filtered rays and increasing the duration of the applications. In the case of very voluminous tumors, the "cross-fire" method may be employed with advantage, the apparatus being placed on the opposite sides of the tumor, which is then saturated with the rays. Wickham and Degrais were the first to demonstrate the beneficial effects of radium in this class of tumor, and their results have since been confirmed by many writers. Individual idiosyncrasies are, however, an important factor in determining the success or otherwise of the treatment, and the prognosis of radium therapy is not so good if the lesion has been previously treated by electrolysis.

In the vascular and pulsatile angiomata of softer consistency, the destructive action which is indicated in the variety referred to above, must be avoided, owing to the risk of hemorrhage. In cases in which the lesion represents a combination of all three forms of angiomata, we have had most success with the "cross-fire" method, of Wickham, using fairly strong plaques screened, applied in series consisting of five or six applications, and repetition being dependent upon its results.

The advantages of radium in this connection, as compared with other methods of treatment that have been recommended, are the facility of application and the fact that the treatment causes practically no pain, which is of special importance in view of the fact that a large proportion of the patients are young children. The cosmetic results also compare favorably with those of surgery, the X-ray or electrolysis, the scar being scarcely distinguishable from the surrounding skin.

NEW GROWTHS—BENIGN AND MALIGNANT.

Senile Keratosis.—This condition is very common in people above the age of fifty, and is liable in many cases to degenerate into cancer. Radium rays can be applied with facility, and have been found very efficacious, the pigmentation gradually disappearing, and the surface becoming completely normal in color and consistency in about five or six weeks after the application. If cure is not complete, a second application may be made a month later. In some cases, in which there is a scab of very hard consistency, it is