

have all been tried and have all failed. Such cases—and there are many of them—may be cured by two sittings of radium lasting one hour each, the parts being finally left free from attachment to the deeper parts, the skin being soft and pliable. Why I lay stress on such cases as these is for this reason: it has been said that radium only acts by means of X-rays, which are part of its radiation. Anyhow, here are cases, numerous enough, in which a condition is cured which has refused to heal after persistent treatment by X-rays. In other words, radium can effect a cure where X-rays cannot. With regard to epithelioma of the tongue and epithelioma of the lip. They are cured by radium. You say of what degrees. I acknowledge that the cases are in the early stages of epithelioma, but they are epitheliomata that are ulcerating, and that, so far as we know, can yield to no other treatment except that of operation. If, therefore, an epithelioma of the tongue can be cured by radium, and cured to the satisfaction of those who are responsible for the case, it is a case of epithelioma treated without operation.”⁽⁵⁾

It is interesting to note that our late King had a rodent ulcer which was cured by radium.

Finzi remarks: Epithelioma of the lips, buccal mucous membrane, palate, larynx and nose are suitable for radium treatment. The desirability of treating operable growths must be decided on the merits of the case, and the rate of growth and histological structure will have a great influence on the decision. At any rate disfiguring radical operations may be avoided by suitable radium treatment. Do not forget to treat the glands, even if not enlarged, in these cases. Epithelioma of the skin is suitable for treatment, even if rapidly growing. If ulcerated, one can give very large doses to the ulcerated portion without fear of damage.⁽⁶⁾

In the experience of almost every one who has employed radium for rodent ulcer, there is no remedy which gives such brilliant results as it does. Relapses have certainly occurred in several cases, but they have been either in cases of such an advanced type involving large areas and extending down to bone, that the quantity of radium was inadequate to thoroughly deal with them, or in which the exposures were insufficient, and the patient failing to report himself when recurrence showed itself.

Since publishing his classical work on Radium Therapie in Paris last year Dr. Wickham writes, as the result of further investigations, of the therapeutic action of radium in cancer:

“We have treated cases of cancer of the neck of the bladder with definite results, by the introduction into the urethra of a catheter containing a radium tube.