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Original Articles

RECENT OBSERVATIONS ON THE THERAPEUTIC USE OF RADIUM.

BY DR. W. H. B. AIKINS, TORONTO,

Consulting Physician to Toronto General Hospital, King Edward Sanitarium, etc.

In collaboration with

F. C. HARRISON, B.A., M.B., TORONTO,

Physician to Hospital for Incurables, Assistant in Pharmacology, University of Toronto.

From the results recently published by Drs. Louis Wickham and Degrais of Paris, and by Dr. Robt. Abbe of New York, it has been abundantly proven that radium has a distinct place in therapeutics, and, moreover, a place which it seems probable will be gradually extended so as to include many conditions which formerly seemed beyond its scope.

It has been the experience of all workers with this agent that on superficial epitheliomata of the skin its action is specific. The histological changes in the cancer cells following the application of the radium rays are peculiar to themselves and quite unlike those following the use of X-rays, leucodescent light and other agents. It is true that some cases can be treated with good results by excision, the use of arsenical pastes or X-ray, but we have had cases which, after all these methods have proved inefficient, have healed readily after short applications of radium.

In the treatment of erectile angiomata and nevi, excellent results have also been obtained. Dr. Wickham has reported several hundred cases of all forms of birthmarks, from port wine stains to vascular and pulsating angiomata, which have been reduced so that