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X-RAYS AS A THERAPEUTIC AGENT.

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LECTURE III.—*Continued.*

GENTLEMEN, if one could place a reliance on the extraordinary results reported in any or all medical reviews, we would possess, without doubt, in "raying," the most wonderful therapeutic agent the world has ever seen. But for the present, it behooves us to use moderation in our estimation of this method of treatment for several reasons. Firstly, because many cures are prematurely reported; secondly, because many who dabble in this method, through lack of proper knowledge, lower the method in the eyes of both profession and laity.

The use of X-rays as a curative agent for lupus and a number of other diseases of the tegument dates from the experiences of Freund and Schiff, 1897-1898.

Action of "raying" on the skin.—It is claimed that there is no dissimilar action on the skin in health and disease. This statement has only an appearance of truth, for although the general reaction in health and in disease is somewhat analogous, yet the health of the part will greatly modify it.

After a certain time, always variable with each case, the cutaneous surface takes on a yellow tinge, which may be due to a centrifugal displacement of the pigment around the part exposed; the pigment at times becomes