

diagnosis rather than a keen competitor for supremacy. We must not abandon the old method of drawing conclusions by a process of inductive reasoning after a thorough and searching examination. To do so would make us mere automata.

There are three things that should never be placed in the hands of the patient: the hypodermic syringe, the thermometer and the X-ray photograph. The abuse of the first is so general that it must ere long engage the attention of the profession, while every physician has witnessed the miserable wrecks made of certain neurotic patients as a result of the ignorant interpretations attached to slight daily variations in temperature. The same may be said of the X-ray photograph. The interpretation of many plates is difficult and long experience is necessary to guarantee safe conclusions. There are many pitfalls into which the unwary may drop. Much discomfort may be caused the patient, and annoyance the surgeon, from the realization by the patient that the union of his fractured bone is not a piece of cabinet work, notwithstanding the fact that that union is sound and function perfect. The conclusion naturally follows that the Roentgen rays must be in the hands of physicians and surgeons, not laymen, and that they must learn to interpret their results just as they have learned auscultation and percussion; and, finally, it is only from those whose experience and careful study of the subject warrant their speaking with authority that an X-ray diagnosis should be accepted. In this way only will the public be benefited and the profession protected.

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