

to us, it must be through all the truth, not a mere fragment of it. And a due sense of proportion, otherwise common sense, as an unswerving and insistent ideal is, in a work-a-day life, the best guide for a safe journey.

THE X-RAY IN CANCER AND SKIN DISEASES.*

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Of all the recent advances in the treatment of skin diseases, none has attracted more widespread interest than that of phototherapy. The treatment by light, while not strictly a novelty has received such an impetus since Finsen first brought out his treatment of smallpox by red light, that actinotherapy, as well as the more recent radiotherapy, can almost be considered a method introducing a new era in the therapy of many affections. While the reports from the application of the Finsen method abroad appear most encouraging, comparatively little of a positive nature is to be reported from this side of the Atlantic. Radiotherapy, on the other hand, although of much more recent development has advanced with such rapid strides that already sufficient reports are available to justify certain definite conclusions. I cannot attempt here to collect statistics from the scattered literature, but must content myself with a brief report of my personal experience during the past year.

At the present time I can make a report on thirty-five cases of cancer of various kinds in which radiotherapy has been employed. Of these nine were carcinoma of the breast, six recurrent, and three primary. Of these one has died, three have ceased treatment, two of their own volition and one by my advice, and five are still under treatment, and all showing improvement. One cancer of the chest wall, with extensive involvement of the skin, extending on both sides of the line of incision, has been discharged apparently or symptomatically cured. The opposite breast is, however, suspected of being involved, and treatment may be resumed for this reason. Of the

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