

Among the untoward results experienced by such patients were a dermatitis of varying degrees of severity, stubborn and resistant to the hitherto accepted methods of treatment, necrosis manifested by ulcers involving varying depths of tissue, and likewise most obstinate in healing, and many other varieties of the now well-known so-called X-rays burns.

Nor did the medical profession itself escape many a bitter personal experience of the power of X-rays to not only penetrate tissues, but also to act in an alarming manner on such tissue under certain conditions.

Many of the profession were in the habit of estimating the degree of penetration possessed by the tube by holding the hand in front of the excited tube and viewing the "shadows" of the bones through the fluoroscope. As this method was very easy to carry out, and the density of the shadow of the bones was a capital criterion of the condition of the tube, the manœuvre was of frequent occurrence.

Shortly, however, it was noticed that the skin upon the back of the hand so used became dryer, in fact often quite leathery in appearance, and that small warty growths were to be seen, scattered about the surface; and the same things happened to the other hand which held the fluoroscope before the tube. Sometimes an acute dermatitis was the first symptom of trouble, but it was not always necessary to have a dermatitis before our attention was called to these things.

Much else happened to the luckless operator, and presently men began to lose a finger, or a hand, or an arm, and then some one died as a result of being exposed to the long-continued, frequently-repeated irritation of the X-rays. Gradually the death list grew, and several men of eminence in the medical profession, and some leading manufacturers of apparatus, were numbered among the victims, martyrs to the sacred cause of science.

After a number of practitioners had become affected to a greater or lesser extent by the X-rays, they began to compare notes; much was also written upon the subject, and a great deal of valuable information was thus collected, which is now a matter of record.

It was found that everyone was not equally affected by exposure to the X-rays, but that the degree of susceptibility to the influence of the rays varied considerably with different individuals, that there was much disparity in the rapidity with which untoward symptoms appeared and developed, and that some apparently recovered more rapidly than others, that all sufferers did not succumb, but many years were necessary to accomplish recovery, and that even then some of the results were still apparent, that the parchment-like appearance of the skin persisted, that the nails