

The recent discovery of the penetrating power of intensified rays of light, through the substance of ordinary opaque bodies, and the possibility of taking a photographic impression of the denser media through which they pass, affords a new method of locating the presence of foreign bodies within the human system, and of the visual recognition of pathological changes affecting the density of the normal tissues.

The multiplicity of conditions in which the application of this new method of diagnosis may be of service, seem almost beyond number. Already important results have been obtained through its aid in surgery and in medicine, and an almost limitless field of usefulness lies before it. Great things may without doubt be expected of the "X" rays.

Among the fatal diseases that still continue to baffle the efforts of the physician, tuberculosis holds the palm as the one great fell destroyer of the human race. Fully one-sixth of the total number of deaths are due to its merciless ravages.

Koch's announcement a few years ago that a cure had been discovered for that great scourge of mankind, created a sensation throughout the world as intense as the subsequent disappointment in its efficiency was great. No methods have yet been discovered to stay the ravages of the deadly "rod bacillus." Tuberculosis still holds sway as the one great unconquerable foe. No condition of life is free from its invasion, and apart from hygienic rules of prevention, no dependence can be placed upon any medicinal agent yet discovered, to successfully combat that terrible enemy of man. The efforts of the physician remain powerless to check its onward course, and the patient looks trustingly for that relief that never comes.

"We go to the bedside day by day to be idle spectators of a sad ceremony, and we leave it humbled by the consciousness of the narrow limits that circumscribe the boundaries of our Art." Medical science still looks with hope to that day when by the efforts and researches of scientific investigators, tuberculosis may yet be deprived of its terrors.

It is in surgery, however, that the most palpable results of the scientific application of the germ theory of decomposition are observed. When Lister first enunciated his system of antiseptic surgery the whole world scoffed at and ridiculed him. But Lister has lived to triumph over all opposition and to witness the realization of beneficent results which will accumulate from age to age until the end of time. We do not now appreciate the benefits of Lister's great discovery, since we have almost forgotten the time when we were without it. But how much