

either conquer and thus check the condition or, being themselves overcome, carry the bacilli into new districts and so spread the disease.

When tuberculosis affects bones, an absorption of trabeculae occurs, an enlargement of the spaces takes place and a rarefying osteitis results so that one of the early pathological conditions of tubercular disease of bone is rarefaction. As the rarefying process causes a lessening of the solid constituents, and, as the greater the proportion of calcareous matter, the more distinct the skiograph; it naturally follows that a bone the subject of rarefying osteitis would show less clear under the tube.

In the consideration of eccentric atrophy, I drew attention to the indistinctness of the skiograph in the case referred to. This was explained afterwards by the absorption of the firm tissue of the bone, so, then, the X rays offer a means of diagnosis of tubercular disease of bone in the early or rarefying stage.

Here is a skiograph (Fig. 2) of a rarefying osteitis of the carpus;

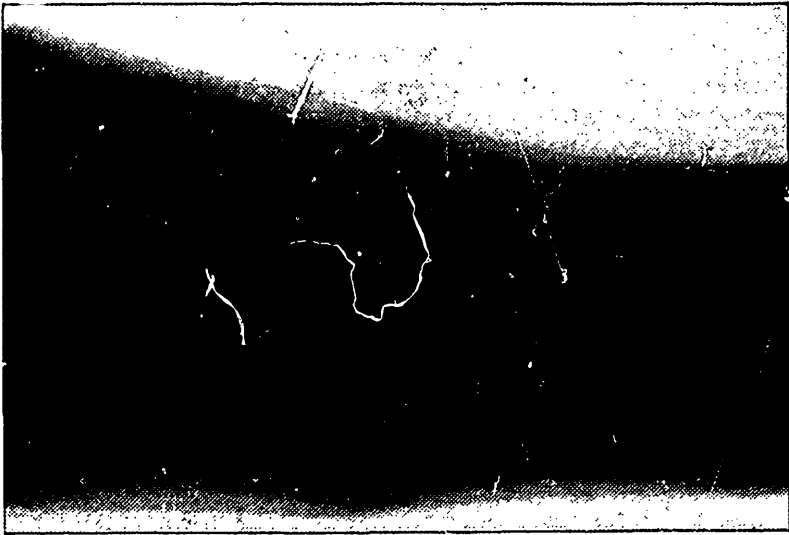


FIG. 2.

the individual bones are enlarged and in a condition of rarefaction. The patient's history and the external appearance of her wrist indicate tubercular disease, and that diagnosis is confirmed by the skiograph showing the condition present.

In cases where the system overcomes the tubercular process, as in