

ROENTGEN RAYS IN RELATION TO CANCER.

By A. GROVES, M.D.,

Superintendent Royal Alexandra Hospital, Fergus, Ont.

Mrs. W. S., age 59 years, was admitted to the hospital on January 31st, complaining of vaginal discharge and falling of womb. Personal history was good, usual diseases of childhood. Had been married thirty years, giving birth to ten children. Present illness commenced about two years ago, the symptoms of which were "a dragging down sensation, accompanied by profuse discharge, with pain in top of head." Had been gradually losing strength, characteristic cachexia also present. A vaginal examination showed a large ulcerated surface with very fetid discharge, hemorrhage occurring when parts were touched. A diagnosis of epithelioma of os uteri was made, and it was decided to try the effect of Roentgen rays, the case being beyond operative interference. Treatment was commenced, lasting on an average fifteen minutes per diem, and on the fourteenth day there was no apparent result excepting a partial relief of pain, but after this, the odor decreased with lessened discharge, and the ulcerated surface showed healthy signs, granulation occurring, and, on the thirtieth day from the commencement of the treatment, there was only a very small surface not completely healed, no odor, discharge or hemorrhage, and complete absence from pain. Patient then left the hospital, and ten days afterwards I examined her and found the remaining surface had healed and her general health improved in every way. Two months afterwards I found her in perfect health, with absolutely no return of symptoms. I think this may be confidently claimed as a cure.

Mrs. E. McD., aged 55 years, married, admitted to hospital on May 14th, with diagnosis of cancer. Examination showed that whole of lower third of rectum was involved, also the posterior wall of vagina, so much so that both organs opened as one. The disease had started five years ago, but up to time of admission had never been properly examined, receiving no treatment except medication. Treatment by Roentgen rays started, and on the night of the fourth treatment the patient slept for eight hours which, when compared with the history of the preceding seven months, the average sleep for which being one and a half hours per night, was very encouraging. She left the hospital on the 18th, temporarily, and I have no doubt that on her return a complete cure can be made.