

III. While it is desirable that the committee should include representatives of the leading medical colleges, both French and English, and that the radium emanation should be supplied to those institutions and persons (regardless of affiliation) who are most competent to use it effectively, it may be pointed out that the Physics Department of McGill University is peculiarly fitted to act as custodian of the radium itself. The laws of radioactivity were first discovered at McGill by Sir Ernest Rutherford, Professor Soddy and their associates, and the successors of these gentlemen, Dr. Eve and Dr. Gray, have continued and extended the work, and have attained great eminence as original researchers in radioactivity. Furthermore, the Macdonald Physics Building possesses the intricate and very costly apparatus and also the trained technical staff required for the collection of radium emanation, and McGill is thus in a position to secure the largest possible supply of emanation for distribution by the Committee.

IV. One important function of the committee will be to carefully choose the persons and institutes to be entrusted with the emanation. The curative properties of radium are by no means fully understood. It is undoubtedly useful in some types of cancer and other diseases, but it is apparently useless, and possibly harmful, in others. It is therefore of the utmost importance that supplies of material should only be given to those who will use it properly, study its effects carefully, and report the effects without prejudice to the committee and to the profession at large.

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