

The Canadian Journal of Medicine and Surgery

A JOURNAL PUBLISHED MONTHLY IN THE INTEREST OF
MEDICINE AND SURGERY

VOL. XVII.

TORONTO, JANUARY, 1905.

NO. I.

Original Contributions.

SOME OBSERVATIONS UPON THE TREATMENT OF LUPUS VULGARIS BY PHOTOTHERAPY, RADIOTHERAPY AND OTHERWISE.*

BY CHARLES R. DICKSON, M.D., TORONTO,

Electro-therapist to Toronto General Hospital, Hospital for Sick Children, St. Michael's Hospital,
Ex-President of the American Electro-Therapeutic Association and Delegate
of the Association to the International Electrical Congress,
St. Louis, Mo., U.S.A., 1904.

UNTIL a comparatively recent period the treatment of lupus vulgaris had not been attended with brilliant results, and it remained for electro-therapy, as on so many other fields of conquest, to point the way to a more hopeful outcome.

This brief paper will not deal with the varied procedures of the past, dignified by the name of treatment, nor yet with all the minute and interesting details of modern scientific technique in such happy contrast with former methods. No striking, novel, original theories will be advanced, but merely a few unpretentious observations, particularly with regard to cases of long standing and unusual obstinacy, as a contribution to the literature of a subject which is deservedly attracting much attention at the present time.

In the treatment of lupus the X-rays scored their first therapeutic triumph, and a most notable one it was. To Finsen is due the credit for compelling the medical profession to recognize the therapeutic efficacy of light in affections of the skin, and this led to the employment of X-rays in the treatment of lupus, the result

* Read before International Electrical Congress, St. Louis, Mo., September 12-17, 1904, at a joint session of Section H with The American Electro-Therapeutic Association.