

ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTIONS

A DIGEST OF THE FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF THE RADIUM INSTITUTE, LONDON.

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THE first report of the Radium Institute, London, has been published by A. E. Hayward Pinch, F.R.C.S., medical superintendent, and appears in the issue of the *British Medical Journal* of Jan. 25th, covering the period from August 14th, 1911 to December 31st, 1912.

The report deals with all cases which have presented themselves during that period. The only cases refused were those who were practically moribund or where radium treatment was obviously unsuited. Equal prominence is given to these cases in which radium was useful and those in which it was not. No cases have been treated but those which were operable or in which operation was declined by the patient which materially modifies the statistical results. The term "apparent cure," used in relation to cases of malignant disease must be interpreted as representing a condition in which all traces of the original lesion has disappeared in which there is no sign of recurrence, and in which the patient is, so far as can be determined by a thorough and careful examination, free from any symptom or indication of the disease. With reference to "abandoned treatment" it must be explained that in not a few instances treatment was given up because the patient was obliged to leave London or was unable to defray the expense of travelling up from the country.

The apparatus. Applicators.—1. Flat varnished square or round. Strength, 2 to 10 mg. Capillary tubes, glass, strength, 7 to 150 mg. *Radium emanation*, collected in glass tubes and used thus or dissolved in weak saline solution and administered by drinking or injection. *Screens.* Aluminum, silver or lead, thickness from 0.01 to 2 mm. *Duration of application*, from three minutes (superficial lesions and strong radium) to 100 hours (deep seated and serious tumors) *Reaction* varied from simple erythema to deep ulceration and eschar, depending upon screens and nature of the case.

RESULTS OF THE TREATMENT OF DISEASE.

Carcinomata. Squamous celled epitheliomata of the skin.—Very different results are obtained with the epitheliomata affecting the glabrous skin as opposed to those involving mucous surfaces, epitheliomata of the face, trunk or extremities, if flat and superficial and accompanied by little or no ulceration, give satisfactory results when treated with one quarter or half strength apparatus, screened with 0.5 mm. of