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THE ROENTGEN RAYS IN THE DIAGNOSIS OF URINARY AND BILIARY CALCULI.

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The Roentgen Rays may be said to have opened up a new era in the diagnosis of calculous diseases, for by their intelligent use a positive opinion may be expressed as to the presence or absence of all calculi, with the exception of biliary. Judging from my own experience, I believe that any error is due to faulty technique and inability to correctly interpret the skiagrams, and not to the method itself.

The classical symptoms of renal and ureteral calculi are often absent, and in many cases which only complain of vague urinary symptoms calculi are to be found. Ureteral calculi have no diagnostic symptoms, yet they are far from uncommon. Leonard has found them in 50 per cent. of his cases, and in my limited experience the percentage is even higher.

I believe that X-rays are of as much value in urinary calculi as the ophthalmoscope is in the diseases of the eye, or as the laryngoscope in diseases of the larynx. One case has come under my observation in which the appendix had been removed for supposed appendicitis. The symptoms still persisting, the case was examined with the X-rays, and a large calculus was discovered in the right kidney. This was removed, with the result that the patient was completely cured. On account of the comparatively small number of my cases, I prefer to give a short history of each.

My first case was skiagraphed in 1898.

1. Mr. B., age 50, complained of great pain in the right lumbar region. There was no renal colic, but he passed large quantities of blood by the urethra, so much so that the urine