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CURRENT TOPICS.

The new Roentgen method of procuring shadow pictures of objects through substances formerly considered opaque, and which are opaque to ordinary vision, will not only be of the highest utility in surgery, but is likely to play an important part in the law courts. Cases of physical injury, in which the evidence was usually so conflicting as to perplex the jury, will now very often be rendered perfectly simple, and the estimate of damages will naturally be a closer approach to what is just. In a recent case in England, an actress sued for injuries sustained by falling through a dilapidated stairway in the theatre. The plaintiff's case was weak as to the extent of the injuries, and the jury would probably have compromised by awarding a moderate sum, but the plaintiff's pretensions received the strongest support from Roentgen ray pictures which clearly showed that the bones of the foot had been seriously displaced, and the jury agreed upon a verdict of \$5,000. What improvements may be made in the process it is difficult to foresee, but it is quite certain that improvements will be effected, as was the case in the matter of electric light. Probably in many cases arising from railway accidents, the mysteries of