

THE
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**RADIUM THERAPEUTICS AT THE ROYAL SOCIETY
OF MEDICINE.**

In another column we are able to present to our readers an abstract report by Dr. Dan McKenzie of the interesting paper on "Radium Therapeutics," read at a meeting of the Dermatological Section of the Royal Society of Medicine, at which a large number of Fellows, as well as of persons of distinction in the medical and social worlds, were present. The lecturer, Dr. Wickham, who is the medical superintendent of the Radium Institute in Paris, is probably the one of all others best situated for judging of the value of this means of treatment, and his report will be read with all the greater interest because of the clearness of the evidence he adduces and the moderation of the conclusions at which he arrives.

Our report is confined mainly to those sections of the lecture which deal with the region of the body with which we are specially concerned, and there can be no doubt that some of the results recorded are most convincing as to the value of the treatment, even if we make full allowance for those spontaneous retrogressions which we rarely hear about and still more rarely see. The filtering-off of the rays which irritate the skin without penetrating the morbid growth ("soft rays") and the utilisation of those having the opposite properties ("hard rays") is strongly insisted on, and appear to afford the key to success in their application. It is thus possible to apply large quantities of radium for a prolonged period in a way that was formerly out of the question.

It is to be hoped that Captain Hayward Pinch will in time be able to show at least equally good results at the Radium Institute at present in the course of formation in London. In any case we may rely on him for the devoted exercise of energy and judgment, stimulated by enthusiasm and tempered by discretion. We trust that the medical profession will watch with care and patience the working-out of the scope as well as the limitations of this valuable resource, withholding premature laudation or disparagement in view of the obvious fact pointed out by Dr. Wickham, that it is only by experience that we can arrive at those details as regards dosage and administration by which alone the fullest benefit without prejudicial after-effects can be expected.

SOME EXPERIENCES IN THE DIRECT EXAMINATION OF THE LARYNX, TRACHEA, AND ŒSOPHAGUS.¹

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INSTRUMENTS AND LIGHT.

THE tubes I have used have been Rosenheim's for œsophagoscopy, Killian's for bronchoscopy, and lately Bruening's telescopic tubes, which serve both purposes. I have tried Kirstein's and Bruening's lamps, but hitherto have had most satisfaction by reflecting with the ordinary forehead mirror light obtained from a lime light, or from a special lamp on the Nernst principle yielding from 800 to 1000 candle-power which I have had adapted for the purpose.

Most of the examinations and operations to which I shall refer were conducted with the patient lying and under chloroform.

DIRECT LARYNGOSCOPY.

I have employed direct laryngoscopy chiefly for the examination of infants. This method has enabled me to differentiate the various causes of stridor or noisy respiration in babies, a problem which previously was rarely possible by means of the laryngeal mirror.

In this group I have met with subglottic swelling and associated diminished abduction of the cords due to simple inflamma-

¹ Read at a meeting of the British Medical Association, Sheffield, July 19, 1908.