

THE RÖNTGEN RAYS IN PEDIATRICS. The Diagnosis of Diseases in Early Life by the Röntgen Method. By THOMAS MORGAN ROTCH, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics in Harvard University. Pp. 225; 303 illustrations. Philadelphia and London: J. B. Lippincott Company, 1910.

ONE of the essential objects of the author in compiling this treatise is to show in a convincing manner when and how the x -ray examination should be employed in connection with the diagnosis of those diseases, injuries, or abnormal conditions of developmental origin during early life in which method is applicable, and to emphasize the necessity of its employment as a means of completing or confirming clinical data otherwise obtained, in order that the most accurate diagnostic results may be derived. The author is one of the first among American clinicians to take the initial step in dealing with Röntgen diagnosis in a comprehensive manner from the purely clinical standpoint, and aside from any favorable or critical comment that might be made concerning his work as a book, his efforts in this one direction are most commendable. The book is essentially a treatise upon x -ray diagnosis, and does not touch upon apparatus, methods, or technique, except occasionally where some reference to this aspect of radiography may be imperative. As such it will no doubt be regarded in a different light by certain general groups among the medical profession. Taking as one group the undergraduates and the recent graduates, the author states that it is one of his main objects to reach this class in particular and to teach them the full importance of radiography, the extent of its useful application, and how it should be applied as an additional diagnostic method. To this group the book will likely appeal the most strongly and be of the most practical service. It is likely to appeal also, but in a somewhat different manner, to the young and rather inexperienced x -ray man, who may be able to find in it a substitute for some of the experience which he lacks. To the older physician or surgeon and to the Röntgenologist the book has little new information to offer, and can hardly be regarded by them as more than a useful book of reference.

The general arrangement of the subjects and of the text and illustrations is well adapted to the purpose of teaching the correct application of Röntgen diagnosis. In connection with each condition discussed, after a review of its characteristic clinical and pathological features, there follows a discussion of the radiographic features that are likely to be presented, how they are to be recognized, and how to interpret the appearances correctly. Each condition is suitably illustrated by typical radiographic examples which are direct reproductions from skiagrams.

A rather unique feature of the book is the discussion of an additional use for radiography during early life. The author suggests

a plan for utilizing the radiogram as a means of calculating anatomical and physiological development in connection with child labor problems and the grading of gymnastic and atheletic exercise and even education.

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