AN EXAMINATION OF CERTAIN CANCERS OF THE MOUTH AND SOME ADJACENT STRUCTURES, WITH REGARD TO THEIR TREATMENT BY RADIOThERAPEUTIC MEANS, INCLUDING THE USE OF MASS-POTIUM AND RADIUM BEAM THERAPY.

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AN EXAMINATION OF CERTAIN CANCERS OF THE MOUTH AND SOME ADJACENT STRUCTURES, WITH REGARD TO THEIR TREATMENT BY RADIOTHERAPEUTIC MEANS, INCLUDING THE USE OF MASS RADIUM AND RADIUM BEAM THERAPY.

Scope of the Thesis

This thesis treats of certain cancers of the mouth and some adjacent structures and their treatment by means of radiotherapy. It is intended as a critical commentary on the work of that nature performed at the Radiotherapy Clinic of the Royal Adelaide Hospital during the years 1939 to 1943.

These years are chosen partly because I then found myself, to some extent through accident of war, in charge of the major portion of the work of this clinic. With the departure of several radiologists my scope was enlarged from that of Honorary Associate Radium Therapist to include most of the radium work, all the deep and superficial X-ray, and even some radiodiagnosis. They were years of stress and difficulty, and no doubt performance and results fell short of the desirable optimum for such a clinic.

This, in my view, all the more reason for examination and criticism of the work carried out.

The investigation began chiefly in connection with cases of cancer of the tongue, and on account of the difficulty of separating such lesions from those of the floor of the mouth, the tonsils and other nearby structures, was extended to include most of the carcinomatous of the buccal cavity. The larynx was then added, partly because epilaryngeal growths impinge so closely upon the areas already under consideration, and also because such a site figures to no small extent as one suitable for radium beam therapy,
which type of treatment is discussed at some length.

A sense of dissatisfaction with our results of treat-
ment of this region was also a reason that influenced me to
include it.

Another point of interest is that much the same group
of people are affected by cancer of the buccal cavity and
cancer of the larynx, suggesting that much the same factors
are operating to produce such disease.

Besides the main subject of the survey, certain other
cases are presented as having a bearing on the matters
under consideration. In particular, there is an account
of treatment by mass radium such has been attempted at this
clinic, and references are made to such work elsewhere.
Although most of the material deals with treatment by radium
a proportion of the cases have been treated by roentgen-
therapy.

It must be remembered that in Australia no vast masses
of radium are available for the purpose of intensive treat-
ment, nor are there the extensive physical aids that are to
be found in the older and more established countries.

The total radium in use in Australia, both public and
private, would probably be less than is contained in three
of the beam therapy units in Britain, while the comprehen-
sive and effective organization is also on a reduced scale.

This is not to say that no good work has been done in
this country. On the contrary, much good work has been
done, but the difficulties are greater, in that facilities
for consultation with other radiotherapeutic clinics are
negligible, except for annual conferences which have been
discontinued since the beginning of war.

In England, Europe and America, one has easy access
to established clinics, libraries and eminent physicists.
Hence, although an excellent physical service is in exist-
ence with a number of able men, it cannot yet hope to com-
pete with some on the other side of the world. I doubt,
The history of treatment by radiocauteretic means dates back a long period. In the early days of the 20th century, K. E. bladders with radiation therapy, which were early in the 20th century, and thus became the standard for malignant growths. In the late 1920s, the first report of the use of radioactive materials was published. In the 1930s, the first report of the use of radioactive materials was published. In the 1950s, the first report of the use of radioactive materials was published. In the 1960s, the first report of the use of radioactive materials was published. In the 1970s, the first report of the use of radioactive materials was published. In the 1980s, the first report of the use of radioactive materials was published. In the 1990s, the first report of the use of radioactive materials was published. In the 2000s, the first report of the use of radioactive materials was published.