

MEDICAL USES OF RADIUM.

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Privy Council

**MEDICAL RESEARCH
COUNCIL**

MEDICAL USES OF RADIUM

**Summary of Reports from Research
Centres for 1931**



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PREFACE

THIS Report summarizes the results of research work done during 1931 in the treatment of cancer by means of radium lent by the Medical Research Council to selected centres throughout the country. It thus continues the account given in the nine similar reports already published (Nos. 62, 90, 102, 112, 116, 126, 144, 150, and 160 in this Series). The scheme of work is under the direction of the Radiology Committee, to whom the Council are indebted for the preparation of these reports.

The original stock of radium salt entrusted to the Council for this purpose by H.M. Government is supplemented by further quantities provided by the British Empire Cancer Campaign and by the National Radium Commission. Support has also again been given by the Campaign to the Radon Centre maintained by the Council at the Middlesex Hospital for the supply of radium emanation. The Council would here once more express their high appreciation of the continued co-operation of these bodies.

The Report not only deals with the actual work of the past year, but also gives statistical data relating to the after-histories of patients treated in earlier years. It contains, further, a new section in which some account of purely experimental investigations is presented. The scope of the experimental work has been extended in important directions by help of the recent augmentation by the Radium Commission of the quantity of salt available to the Council.

MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL,
38 Old Queen Street,
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INTRODUCTION

THE Radium Report for the year under review, 1931, is divided into three sections: (1) Clinical, (2) Statistical, and (3) Experimental. Thanks to the action of the Radium Commission in putting one gramme of radium at the disposal of the Council for experimental purposes, it has been possible to increase the facilities at several Centres and to start other lines of research. Owing to the part which these lines of experimental work are likely to play in radium-therapy in future, they have been given somewhat detailed consideration here.

The clinical sections of the Reports give indisputable evidence that the main lines of radium-therapy at the present time are the treatment of cancer of the breast, buccal cavity, and cervix uteri, and the exploration of new lines of technique. These have been commented upon in previous Reports, but even now it can hardly be said that any one method has yet been devised and tested which gives the fullest scope to radiological methods. The three sites in question illustrate very well the stages in the development of a method. There is a large majority of opinion that the best radiological method for healing cancer of the cervix uteri consists in a local