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COVER LEGEND

Claudius Regaud (1870—1940), professor of histology at the University of Lyon, was a distinguished exponent of radiobiology and curietherapy and the founder of the Radium Institute (Institut du Radium) of the University of Paris in 1906. He developed original staining techniques and wrote a thesis on the lymphatics of the testes (Les vaisseaux lymphatiques du testicule. Compt. Rend. Soc. Biol., 49: 659—661, 1897). Regaud became an early student of Emile Roux at the Pasteur Institute. This led him to research on the effects of ionizing radiations on various tissues; with Blanc he discovered the varied radiosensitivity of the testicular tubular cells (Action des rayons X sur les diverses générations de la lignée spermatique. Extrême radiosensibilité des spermatogonies à ces rayons. Compt. Rend. Soc. Biol., 61: 163—165, 1906). With Nogier he studied radiophysiologic effects on irradiated skin and described moist radioepidermitis (Les effets produits sur la peau par les hautes doses de rayons X. Arch. d’Élect. Med., 20: 321—334, 1912). In 1912, he was chosen to organize the biomedical services of the Radium Institute in a twin building to the one in which Madame Curie pursued her physicochemical research. Mobilized by World War I, he recruited his future collaborators (Lacassagne, Coutard, Ferroux, Monod, and Roux-Berger). With Deherme he developed an early system of radium dosimetry (Sur l’emploi de l’emanation condensée en tubes clos et sur le dosage en millicuries détruits. Compt. Rend. Acad. Sci., 161: 422—424, 1915). Using the ram testes as an experimental model, he proved the advantage of a dose of radiation fractionated in ten days over a greater total dose administered in a single exposure (Influence de la durée d’irradiation sur les effets déterminés dans le testicule par le radium. Compt. Rend. Soc. Biol., 86: 787—790, 1922). This observation on the time-dose relationship became the most important radiobiological contribution to modern radiotherapy. Regaud was also responsible for the development of gadgets (Colpostat, Columbia paste) and of techniques of interstitial and intracavitary radium therapy which have been widely accepted.


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