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COVER LEGEND


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.

Henri Coutard (1876—1950), radiotherapist of the Radium Institute of Paris, the Chicago Tumor Institute, and the Penrose Cancer Hospital of Colorado Springs, did early work on the utilization of radium emanation (Sur l’émanation du radium et son utilisation thérapeutique. Congress of the Association Francaise pour l’Avancement des Sciences, Nimes, August 1912); in 1919, he joined the staff of the Radium Institute. With a single piece of radiological equipment and interchangeable tubes, he studied experimental radiophysics and radiodiagnosis and practiced radiotherapy. In 1922, he described the mucous membrane reaction which he named radioepithelitis (Sur les délais d’apparition et d’évolution des réactions de la peau, et des muqueuses de la bouche et du pharynx, provoquées par les rayons X. Compt. Rend. Soc. Biol., 86: 1140—1141, 1922). He originated the radiographic study of the larynx (Note préliminaire sur la radiographie du larynx normal et larynx cancéreux. J. Radiol. d’Electrol., 8: 461—465, 1924). Refusing to accept the theoretical limitations of Regaud’s fractionation, Coutard dared to extend the daily irradiation of patients to periods of several weeks. His unprecedented results in the treatment of cancer of the larynx attracted world-wide attention (Considerations sur le cancer de la bande et de la cavité ventriculaire du larynx. Ann. des Mal. de l’Oreille, 46: 467—521, 1927). This method was dubbed the protracted-fractional treatment. His contributions are now indistinguishably incorporated into the everyday practice of radiotherapy (Principles of X-ray Therapy of Malignant Diseases. Lancet, 2: 1—12, 1934). Coutard was primarily responsible for placing radiotherapy on a clinical footing.

We are indebted to Dr. J. A. del Regato for both the portraits and the legend. Regaud is shown on the left; Coutard, on the right.