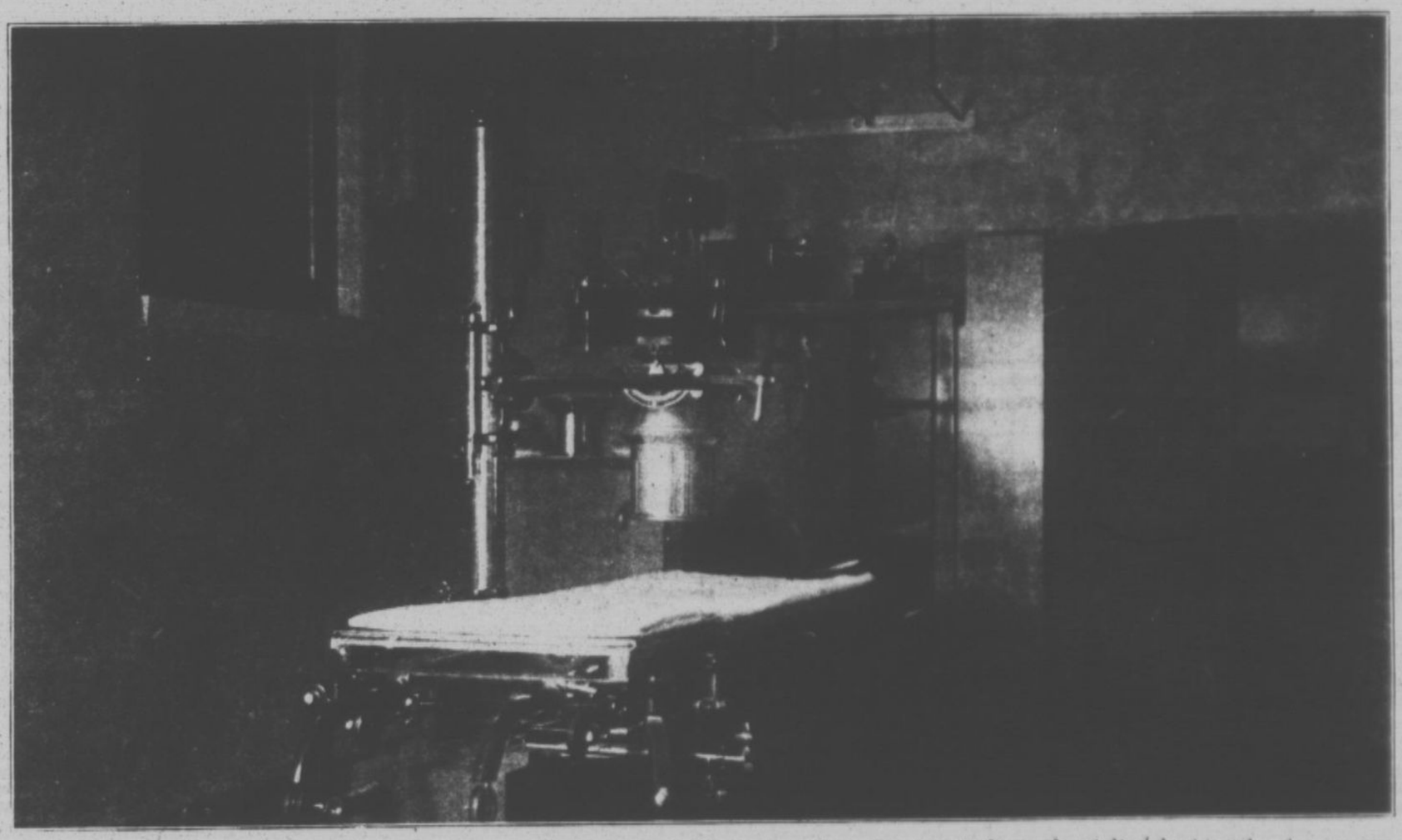
X-RAY EQUIPMENT AT HIGHLAND PARK HOSPITAL



(By George B. Lake, M.D.)

When I was a lad in preparatory school I encountered one day, on an inside page of one of the newspapers, a paragraph about two inches long, to the effect that a German scientist named Roentgen, using the vacuum tube designed by Crookes, of England, had been able to photograph the bones in the hands of a living man (!), by virtue of certain mysterious rays emanating from that tube which, according to the old algebraic symbol for an unknown quantity, he called x-rays.

I showed this to some of my confreres and we laughed ourselves nearly sick over the foolishness of the sap-headed Europeans. Within six months I saw the bones of my own hand by the x-rays! Since then I have been careful how I laugh at new ideas.

First Uses

At first the only practical use for these rays (often called by the name of their discoverer) was to diagnose and study broken bones and to assist in setting them. Some people still think of the x-rays solely in that connection. But the strides that have been made in roentgenology (the science of x-rays) during the past ten or fifteen years have been so enormous that one becomes mentally breathless trying to keep up with them.

The early tubes required five minutes or more to photograph the bones of the hand; while the modern giants will take a picture through the body of a stout man in a fraction of a second, and can be so delicately adjusted as to show the internal structure of a rose-bud, in full detail. The use, of intensifying screens and an apparatus called the Buckey diaphragm have made many almost unbelievable things possible.

The discovery that certain metallic salts, in powders or solutions, are opaque to the x-rays, opened a whole new field for their use. The study of the bones was a great help to the physicians; but now we are able to see and photograph the outlines of any hollow organ in the body which has an opening on the outside or can safely be reached by a hypodermic needle. This is done by filling the organ with a paste or solution of one of these opaque metallic salts—barium sulphate, potassium iodine or bromine in solution, bromine or iodine dissolved in certain oils, etc.—and then making a roentgenogram (x-ray photograph).

Scope Greatly Widened)

In this way we can now study, not only the digestive tract throughout its entire length, but the bladder and all its related structures; the inside of the kidney; the bronchial tubes; the sinuses connecting with the nose; and many other organs, even including the outlines of the brain. This last is done by injecting air into the spinal canal through a long needle, and then photographing the outline of the bubble when it has risen to the interior of the skull.

This all sounds very wonderful, and one might imagine that one would have to go to some great medical center of world-famous clinic in order to obtain the benefits of such studies as I have suggested.

Not so! All these startling things can be done right here in our own Highland Park hospital for they have as fine an x-ray department as one were part of the furniture of every well-regulated parlor table when we will find in a long day's journey. Five rooms, in the basement, are fitted up with all the most modern apparatus — the fluoroscope, with which one can watch a man swallowing a meal of barium in buttermilk and see it go splash into his stomach; a fine, mechanical table, which seems almost intelligent in its adjustments to every requirement; a stereograph, for taking pictures which show the parts in three dimensions (remember the old stereoscopes which dads and mothers were boys and girls?)

X-Ray at Home

And there are lots of other things, besides. Why, even a man who is too sick to be moved can have an x-ray picture taken right in his bed, for they have a small machine which can easily be moved whenever they want it.

But the taking of roentgenograms (nice word, isn't it?) is only a rather small part of a job like this. It takes a trained goentgenologist — that's what the highbrows call an x-ray expert—to tell what the things mean after they are made. And we have that, too! Dr. Sheldon knows his job thoroughly, and those who go to our nospital receive as good x-rays service as they can get anywhere.

Go over to the hospital and take a look at these remarkable machines—and maybe the doctor will give you a peek at some of his pictures. You'll never believe what is actually being done in this line until you see it for yourself.

CIVIC CALENDAR
Sponsored by The Ossoli Club
in charge of
Mrs. Konrad Schreier
Tel. H. P. 362

March 6 — Deerfield-Shields high school P. T. A. meeting postponed to March 20.

March 6-7, 8:00 p. m.—The Presbyterian church guild plays at Elm Place auditorium.

March 11, 9-12 a. m. — French classes. H. P. Woman's club.

March 11, 12:30 p. m. — Buffet luncheon and bridge. Ossoli club.

March 12, 10:30 a. m. — "Early Glass and Pewter" Mrs. Robert J. Evans. Ossoli club.

March 13, 2:30 p. m. — D. A. R. meeting. Mrs. Warren Danley, hostess address "The Romance of Twins" Mr. Abram Mendenhall.

March 14, 6:30 p. m.—Presbyterian Men's Fellowship club dinner. Mrs. C. Edward Thorney, of the Public Utility company will speak on "The Development of Metropolitan Chicago—(illustrated).

March 18, 2:00 p. m. — Highland Park Woman's club business meeting and program.

March 18, 19 and 20 — D. A. R. State conference, Stevens hotel, Chicago.

March 19, 10 a. m. — Community Garden Study class—Highland Park Woman's club.

March 19, 12:30 p. m.—League of Women Voters meeting Highland Park Presbyterian church.

March 20, 3:00 p. m. — Deerfield-Shields high school P. T. A. meeting.

March 25, 2:30 p. m.—"Problems of Personality" Mrs. Anne Rogers Ossoli club.

April 1, 2:30 p. m. — H. P. Woman's club, America in a World Neighborhood. R. C. Pattison Kline.

April 2, 2:00 p. m.—Lincoln school P. T. A. card party.

April 3, 3:00 p. m. — Deerfield-Shields high school P. T. A. meeting.

April 8, 2:30 p. m.—Ossoli club card party. Prizes presented by the board.

April 10, 2:30 p. m.—D. A. R. meeting. Mrs. Henry W. Boyd, hostess. Musicale; guest day.

FORMER STUDENT MAKES MILITARY RIFLE SQUAD

Cadet Charles Steele, former Deerfield-Shields student, has made the varsity rifle team at Culver Military academy. He will compete in the 1930 championship matches.

Charles has a sister, Eleanor, in school.

Another indication that spring can't be so very far away is that the baseball comment is beginning to creep back into the sporting sections of the city newspapers.