

THE X-RAY IN PREGNANCY.

In the November number of the *Fortschritte auf dem Gebiete der Rontgenstrahlen* there is an article by Dr. Lars Eblifg on the use of the Roentgen Ray in the Diagnosis of Pregnancy.

The writer gives his observations upon a series of 20 cases, and describes in some detail the technique which he employs. The conclusions which he presents at the close of his article are as follows:

First. It is possible at the end of the second or at the beginning of the third month of pregnancy to obtain good Roentgen pictures of the intra-uterine fetus fully sufficient for diagnosis.

Second. In the succeeding months, the Roentgen diagnosis of pregnancy is easily made in most cases.

Third. Furthermore, the diagnosis of a multiple pregnancy can be made without difficulty even before the fifth month.

Fourth. Abnormal positions as breech or transverse presentations, likewise excessive hydramnion and probably certain misformations of the fetus can be diagnosed by the Roentgen procedure.

Fifth. It is not usually possible to form absolute conclusions from the Roentgen plate as to the position of head in the pelvis.

Sixth. In extra-uterine pregnancy, good plates of the fetus can be obtained as in the normal. The roentgenologic differential diagnosis of extra-uterine pregnancy depends principally upon the asymmetrical position of the fetus in the pelvis.

Seventh. The technique of the exposure must correspond to the individual cases. The month of the pregnancy and the abdominal conformation of the patient must determine the position and direction of the path of the rays. It is advantageous when possible to make several exposures in different positions.

Eighth. An exact use of the diaphragm and absolute holding of the breath and the shortest exposure (fraction of a second) are necessary to overcome the technical difficulties. Excessive adipose tissue, the presence of uterine myomata or a great amount of hydram-

nion of the mother can make the examination difficult or sometimes impossible.

Ninth. Up to the present time the writer has not found any injurious influence from the Roentgen examination upon the mother or the child.

P. M. HICKEY.