PEDIATRICS

UNDER THE CHARGE OF

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The Röntgen Rays in the Diagnosis of Obscure Abdominal Conditions.
—JOHN LOVETT MORSE (*Jour. Amer. Med. Assoc.*, 1913, lxi, 1422), by a series of excellent case histories illustrated by radiographs explains the value of the Röntgen rays in the diagnosis of obscure conditions in the stomach and abdomen. In persistent vomiting after feedings the radiograph shows none of the test meal leaving the stomach in pyloric stenosis, or when due to spasm or disturbed digestion the stomach is shown empty or nearly so after two hours. In cases of recurrent vomiting and abdominal pain, either singly or in combination, the Röntgen rays furnishes evidence of the greatest importance. In the case of a boy of six years, subject to repeated attacks of vomiting with abdominal pain, and whose appendix had been removed without benefit, the radiographs showed marked splanchnoptosis, the lower border of the stomach being below the level of the iliac crests. In a case suggestive of stone in the bladder in a girl subject to severe attacks of abdominal pain the radiographs taken at various intervals after a test meal showed the gastro-intestinal tract and its functions normal down to the transverse colon which had sagged down in a V-shape and reached nearly to the pubis, thus explaining the symptoms as due to interference with intestinal peristalsis. The radiographs also determine the existence of adhesions in the abdomen as in the case of a girl, aged fifteen years, with attacks of severe abdominal pain, where the radiographs showed prolapse of the cecum into the pelvis with the ascending colon bent sharply downward on itself before joining the transverse colon. Every picture taken showed the same relation of the colon to the cecum and a subsequent laparotomy showed adhesions in the places shown by the radiographs. This method is of great value in determining delay in the passage of food through the gastro-enteric tract, and, if so, where the delay takes place. Radiographs of the abdomen after a bismuth enema show accurately the position of the large intestine.

Appendicitis Caused by Thread-worms Simulating Meningitis. — R. N. H. ANGLIN WHITELOCKE (*Brit. Journ. Child. Dis.*, 1913, x, 296) reports the case of a girl aged over five years with an almost positive tuberculous history who was admitted to hospital with the diagnosis of meningitis. The symptoms were fever, rapid pulse, marked converging strabismus, contraction of both pupils, and photophobia. She had urinary incontinence; any attempt at drinking brought on immediate vomiting, and she screamed out when apparently dosing. This condition continued for two days when rigidity and tenderness over the right rectus muscle was noticed, with flexion of the right thigh. On operation an inflamed appendix was found packed full of thread-worms. Living worms were seen emerging through a