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Canadian Society Radiological Technicians

MANITOBA DIVISION



35th Anniversary



1929



1964

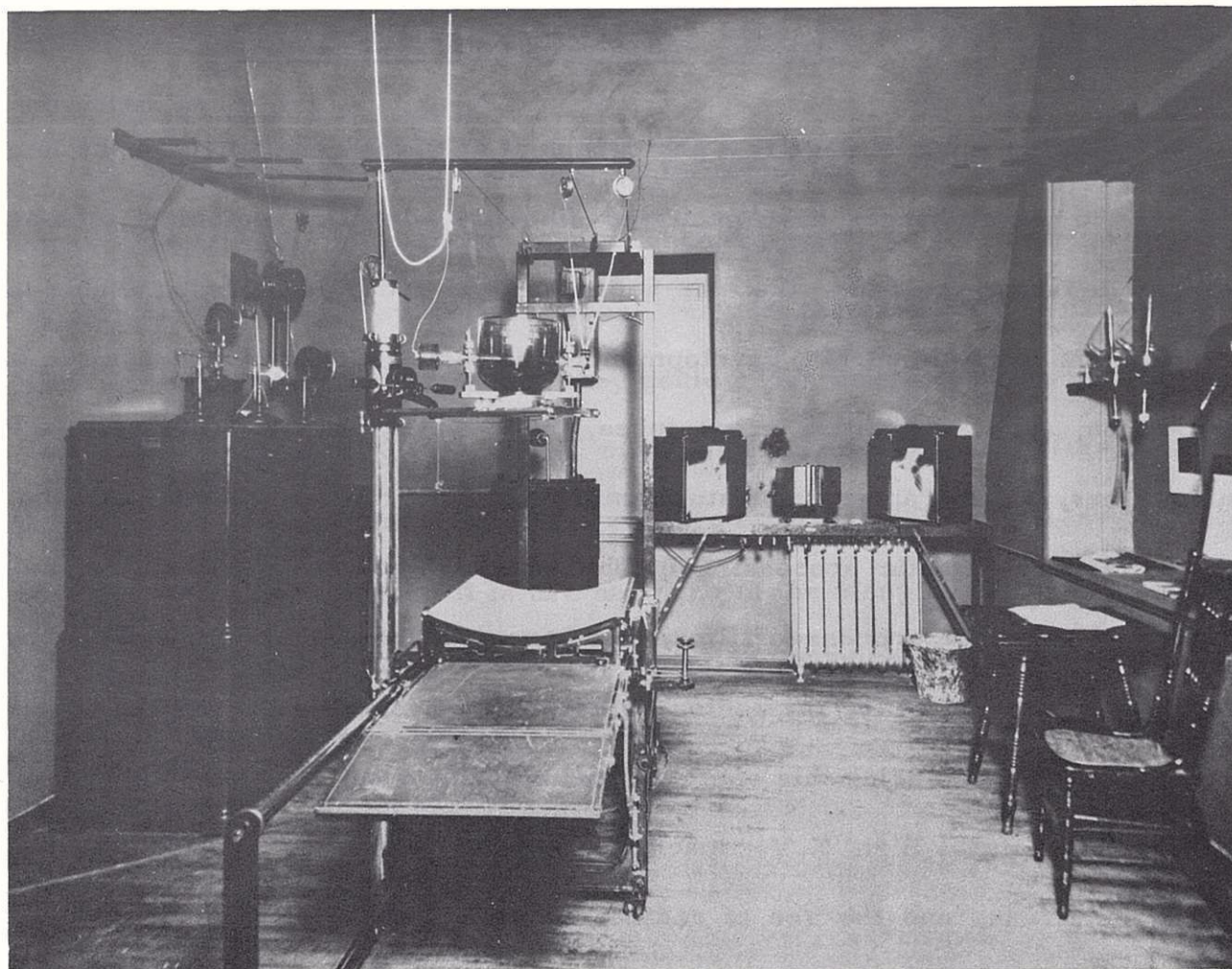


Preface

The Manitoba Society of Radiological Technicians celebrates its 35th anniversary this year and it was suggested by the executive that a suitable brochure or booklet could be compiled, outlining the history of the Society, the evolution of the x-ray technician and the developments over the past 35 years.

A committee was formed and asked to proceed with the compilation of such a booklet.

It is the hope of the executive that readers will find it interesting and informative.



-X-RAY DEPARTMENT - 1927

(We are indebted to the Department of Radiology of the Misericordia General Hospital, Winnipeg, for the use of this historic photograph.)

On the left of the picture is a "Snook" mechanically rectified generator of the cross-arm type. The tube, mounted on a movable tube arm, is an air-cooled radiator type tube, surrounded by a lead-glass bowl offering some protection from scattered rays. This tube was known as the 5-30 radiator tube and would carry a maximum load of 30 milliamps at 85 k. v. p.

The control panel is situated at the rear of the table, and the overhead wiring, with bare leads from the main transformer and the filament transformer, is shown above the tube. On the table is a curved "Bucky" diaphragm. A stereoscope in the background, and in the wall rack on the right are several gas tubes.

THIRTY - FIVE YEARS OF PROGRESS

On the opposite page is a photograph of an x-ray department of the late 1920's. So many changes have occurred since the advent of equipment such as we see in this photograph, that the department of today is unrecognizable in comparison. Many important developments have occurred, almost too numerous to mention, such as rotating anode tubes, photo-timing, serial filming, image intensifiers, angiographic apparatus, improved tomograph units, etc., and last but not least, automatic processing machines, which not only speed up the production of properly processed films, but have removed some of the drudgery from the day's routine for the radiographer. The advances in the field of radiation therapy have, during this same period, brought about enormous changes in therapy apparatus. High K.V. machines, cobalt 60 units, linear accelerators, betatrons, and the use of radioactive isotopes; all a part of the rapidly developing field of radiology. We who know today's ultra-modern radiographic department can look at this picture and marvel at the change.

The next few pages cover 35 years of change and progress for the Manitoba Division, C.S.R.T.

A Look Backward and Forward

A brief history of the evolution of the X-ray Technician and technician's societies.

In the period between the discovery of x-rays by Roentgen in November 1895 and the first decade of this century, there were a few, if any, technicians; that is, lay assistants to radiologists who had received any formal or systematic training in radiographic procedures. Equipment was still somewhat primitive; low power generators, such as static machines and induction coils, together with

gas tubes, were in general use. In most cases the radiologist was his own technician.

As the practice of radiology progressed, many radiologists could no longer afford the time given to purely technical work, and were more or less compelled to bring in lay assistants and instruct them in a few routine procedures and leave them to do the best they could under the circumstances. Technical x-ray work at this period was more or less carried on by the "hunch" method. There was very little literature on the subject and no systematic courses of training. Equipment in use had none of the many accurate controls we have on modern apparatus. Those entering the technical field were dependent on such training as their employers could provide, and their own efforts in study and experience.

The first attempts to teach a systematic procedure in x-ray techniques, based on intelligent use of the fundamentals involved, were made by some of the early manufacturers of x-ray equipment. Members of their technical staff conducted short intensive lecture and demonstration courses. These courses were sponsored entirely by the commercial houses. They served a very useful purpose at the time, and many of our outstanding technicians received their introduction under this scheme.

In the period immediately following the first World War, there was a great increase and rapid development in the use of x-rays in medical practice. Equipment was undergoing a revolution; transformers had replaced the coil and static machine, thus providing a much greater source of power and ease of operation. Up to the early 1920's glass plates were still in use and it was only in the latter part of 1922 that the first satisfactory x-ray film was produced.

Faster films and intensifying screens were soon available and exposure times were reduced. It was during this period, the early Twenties, that the pressing need for increasing numbers of x-ray technicians in Hospitals, clinics and private practices became evident.

FORMATION OF SOCIETIES OF X-RAY TECHNICIANS

Immediately following the first World War, 1914-18, with great increase in the use of x-ray in medical practice, there was a corresponding increase in the number of x-ray technical assistants, many of whom had received their introduction to x-ray work in the armed services. In the latter part of 1920, both in the U. S. A. and England, interested groups composed of both radiologists and x-ray technicians, met to consider the formation of x-ray technician societies, with the following objects in view:

- (1) To assist in establishing approved standards of training and recognition of x-ray technicians.
- (2) To maintain a journal, to print, publish and distribute the proceedings and reports of the society and papers on radiography and allied subjects.
- (3) To provide meetings for the reading of papers and discussion of problems pertaining to the work of the x-ray technician.

Societies were organized in both countries and qualifying examinations and a code of ethics for membership established. Recognizing the need for encouragement and development of skilled technicians, to the end that they produce better technical work, the radiological societies of the U. S. A. and Canada, together with the American Society of X-Ray Technicians co-operated in the

formation of The American Registry of X-Ray Technicians.

The American Registry eventually became the only certifying body of x-ray technicians recognized by The American College of Radiology and The American Medical Association.

Until the formation of the Canadian Society and the establishment of its own qualifications for membership, most of the senior technicians in Canada wrote the American Registry exams and became members of the American Society of X-Ray Technicians. A number of these are still active in both Radiography and in Society affairs.

At the initial meeting in Chicago in October, 1920, a group of technicians from nine states of the Union and one Province of Canada (Manitoba), met for the purpose of organizing a society of x-ray technicians. That Manitoba was representing Canada at this North American organization, and that this Manitoba representation should be appointed to executive position and assist in the formulation of society policy was an early indication of this Province's leadership on behalf of the x-ray technician in Canada.

Organization of The Manitoba Society (Man. Div., C.S.R.T.) 1929

The natural result was the first organization of technicians in Canada formed in Winnipeg in December, 1929, under the name of the Western Canada Society of X-Ray Technicians. This was basically a Manitoba organization, but boundaries were no barrier to membership.

The first officers of the Society were:

President - C.J. Bodle

Vice-President - William Doern

Sec-Treasurer - Miss M. Richardson,

and those attending were:

Miss H. Baggott	Miss M. Hazelwood
Miss N. Black	A. Lawrence
C. J. Bodle	Miss G. McCullough
Miss S. Burns	L. E. Pelletier
Neil Campbell	Mrs. M. Phillion
Miss O. Carruthers	Miss M. Richardson
Miss M. Connolly	Miss H. Turner
Wm. Doern	

The title was later changed to "Society of Radiographers" for conformity with the British Society. The American Society also changed to this form. The result was vigorous opposition on the part of many radiologists, on the grounds that the term "radiographer" would cause much confusion with "radiologist" in the public mind. To overcome this objection, both groups changed the name back to the original one of x-ray technicians. The British Society, however, still maintain their original name as the Society of Radiographers.

Being the first Province to recognize the necessity for a Society of X-Ray Technicians, this early Western Canadian group also recognized the need for all x-ray technicians in Canada to be properly qualified and organized into a disciplined body. In 1934, the Ontario society was formed and for several years these two groups were the only ones in Canada. However, there was activity in other provinces to promote organization, and eventually a provincial society was formed in each province.

The time was now ripe for the formation of a national society. The initial movement began in Ontario, and after a great deal of correspondence be-

tween the provincial groups, a meeting was held in Toronto in September, 1943, at which a board of directors was appointed and a constitution adopted. The name of the Society was adopted as "The Canadian Society of Radiological Technicians", with the provincial groups becoming "member societies" of the parent body, the C. S. R. T., and a member from each provincial society appointed to the Board of Directors of the C. S. R. T.

After much argument pro and con, the provincial groups voted to style themselves as provincial divisions of the C. S. R. T., with the exception of Ontario and Quebec, which both insisted on retention of their individual titles and emblems; Ontario as "The Ontario Society of Radiographers" and Quebec as the "Quebec Society of X-Ray Technicians". Since that time the C. S. R. T. has established reciprocity agreements with both the American and British societies. Curricula for both diagnostic and therapeutic courses have been established, following close co-operation with forementioned groups and the radiological societies.

As a result of much work on the part of the Joint Council on Technical Training, consisting of members of both the Canadian Society of Radiological Technicians, and the Canadian Association of Radiologists, we now have a number of approved training schools for technicians in all provinces, and ways and means for the inspection and approval of training centres where adequate training can be assured.

The Manitoba Division, C. S. R. T. may justly feel a sense of pride in the part it has played in helping to bring about these desirable conditions for the improvement and stabilization of the x-ray technician in the field of medical auxiliary services.

The following achievements are but a small measure of the progress of this organization:

The Manitoba Division, C.S.R.T. was incorporated in 1956, under the Companies Act. We have hosted two C.S.R.T. national conventions, and will again in 1966. Through our regular meetings and local conventions, we have presented numerous papers and films, by some of the best men in medicine and other fields, on topics directly and indirectly related to our profession. Commencement exercises have been held for about fifteen years, welcoming new graduates into our society. We have presented a schedule of wages and working conditions which has been well received by hospitals and radiologists, and which is revised as the need arises. Manitoba technicians have been, through the years, members of all national committees, and have held many top executive positions, including C.S.R.T. president, and A.S.X.T. president. Presently the Provincial Govt. is considering legislation favorable to us as the regulating body for medical x-ray technicians. The active membership on this 35th anniversary now stands at 175.

These results, of course, are but an indication of those within and around the Manitoba Division, C.S.R.T. Over the years this Society has acquired a few special friends, especially from amongst the radiologists, who have given yeoman service. To them we owe a special vote of thanks. From within our own ranks though, we have had a very select few whose efforts on behalf of this organization are primarily responsible for its existence and its growth. Our indebtedness grows with their years of membership.

A vote of appreciation must be extended to the membership also, for it is only by 35 years of loyalty to the Manitoba Division, C.S.R.T. and its leaders, that such a clear-cut path of progress is evident.

A Glimpse into the Future

The old theme of "What does the Society do for me?" is, we think, answered to a large extent by the foregoing summary.

"Actually the benefit to the individual member is determined largely by the member himself, by the extent to which he takes part in the activities of the Society. Certainly the individual member would not have been so well off today if the working members responsible for the development of the past years had not thrown themselves into the Society's activities. It is difficult to enumerate exactly what the Society 'does for you', but you would notice the difference if it did not exist."*

*(Extract from an editorial by Les. Cartwright, editor of the "Focal Spot", 1956, No. 2.)

Then what of the future? We cannot afford to stagnate and "Stand on our laurels". If we desire to advance the status of the x-ray technician, this can only be accomplished through education. The Society is not alone in the realization of needed improvements in our training systems. We all must appreciate the continued efforts, understanding and full support we have received from our radiologists. If we wish to maintain the respect and support of the medical profession, then we must be prepared to extend our knowledge and basic skills. First and foremost, it is necessary to continue to read and study. Half or partial knowledge is worse than none. We are engaged in a highly specialized

field, and education is a basic necessity.

The following quotation from a letter written to the editor of the "Focal Spot" by the late Mr. Arthur Fuchs, one of the best known educationists with the Medical Technical Service of the Eastman Kodak Company says in effect, -

"How about improved technicians?"

"The future should show more intensive training of the x-ray technician. X-ray equipment at the moment provides ample power for any kind of radiography. The unfortunate aspect of the situation is that the technician is not always aware of the potentialities of his or her equipment. The future should show more intensive training in the function and application of exposure factors. Sometimes I am appalled at the ignorance displayed by some technicians. Many technicians are doing good work but a much greater number could do better if they had a more precise understanding of the function of the various exposure factors." *(Focal Spot, 1958, Vol. 15, No. 3)

It is obvious that the elaboration and perfection of equipment is of little value unless the technician is trained to understand its possibilities, and after formal training is completed, is conscientious in keeping up to date in applying the knowledge so acquired in obtaining the best results for the radiologist. A progressive attitude must be maintained, with willingness at all times to accept new techniques and ideas.

A good sign of progress is the establishment of a higher qualification, the fellowship, and the provision of extension courses now being established in several areas. X-Ray technology is still an uncrowded field and with the continuing increase in the utilization of the x-ray, the need for technicians will

continue.

The members of this society, who have selected x-ray technology as their work in life, have shown a sense of duty and dedication which entitles them to respect, both on the part of the medical profession and the public.

And now to end with a quotation from the "Canadian Hospital Journal!:

"If you work in a profession, in Heaven's name work for it. Help advance your co-worker. Respect the power of the organization that makes it possible for you to achieve results not ordinarily achieved by an individual".

In the years to come there is bound to be much further development in the radiological field, and if we, as members of the team, continue to be inspired by the example of our colleagues who have given so much time and effort toward improving the status and welfare of the x-ray technician, then things should be well with us and our society in the unpredictable future.

PAST PRESIDENTS

MANITOBA SOCIETY OF X-RAY TECHNICIANS

1929 - 30	- Claude Bodle	1949	- Gordon Axtell
1931 - 32	- William Doern	1950	- Olga Backhouse
1933	- Margaret Richardson	1951	- Mary Reid
1934	- Kenneth McLeod	1952	- Anne Ross
1935	- Helen Baggott	1953	- Margaret Krietz
1936 - 37	- William Doern	1954	- Philip Beaupre
1938	- Gordon Axtell	1955	- Edward Bailey
1939	- Ruth Macnamara	1956	- Alex Kozak
1940 - 41	- Claude Bodle	1957 - 58	- Hugh Gibson
1942 - 43	- Verna Thompson	1959	- Murry Lunn
1944	- William Doern	1960	- Jacob Enns
1945	- Alice Gray	1961	- Marion Nagelstock
1946	- Gordon Axtell	1962	- Murry Lunn
1947	- Minnie Steski	1963	- Glen Carson
1948	- James Zayshley	1964	- Jacob Enns

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