

0. IF ONLY... - Story Preface

1. A POPULAR PRESIDENT

2. A SHOOTING IN BUFFALO

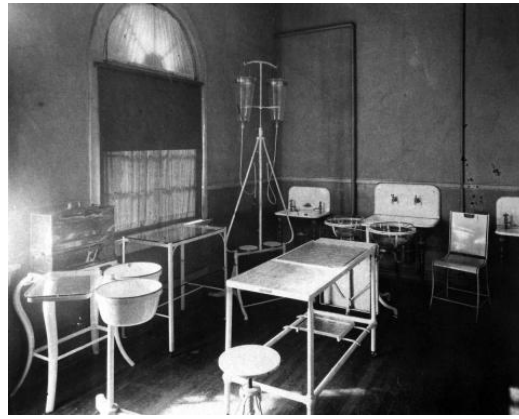
3. TOO LATE

4. IF ONLY...

5. IT IS OVER

6. A PRESIDENTIAL FUNERAL

7. TRIAL AND EXECUTION



Doctors tried to assist the wounded President in this operating room at the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, New York. The image, which depicts the surgical suite as it appeared in 1901, is part of the Robert L. Brown History of Medicine Collection, Health Sciences Library, University at Buffalo (SUNY). It is online via the U.S. National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health.

The wounded President could have survived today. He may have survived then had new equipment, on display at the Pan-American Expo, been available for him.

The biggest medical problem was the bullet that had penetrated his stomach. Doctors couldn't find it. Complicating the search was the President's size. He was a big man.

Trying to locate and remove the .32 caliber projectile, the attending surgeon, Dr. Matthew Mann (a gynecologist who had never before operated on a gunshot victim), probed in vain for the bullet.

One of the best surgeons in the country, Roswell Park, arrived on the scene, but only after the surgery, with its many mistakes, was nearly over.

As doctors tried to save the President, anxious crowds waited outside the Exposition's Emergency Hospital.

An X-ray machine was exhibited near the spot of the assassination. If only doctors had known how to use that machine, it likely would have saved McKinley's life. (Follow this link to an early 1898 machine. Note where the technician is seated. It was before the time when pioneering scientists were aware of the dangerous side of X-rays.)

Discovered by Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen at the University of Wurzburg's Physical Institute Laboratory on November 8, 1895, X-rays have saved countless lives since then. (We can still see the famous December 22, 1895 radiograph of Mrs. Roentgen's hand. It was the X-ray Dr. Roentgen submitted as proof of his discovery.)

In an altruistic gesture that may seem strange today, Roentgen (who won the Nobel Prize for Physics the year McKinley was shot) refused to take out a patent on his invention. He wanted the whole world to benefit from it.

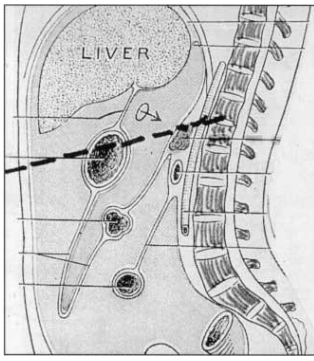
Unfortunately, the whole world did not include President McKinley. As gangrene set into the abdominal wound, his prognosis worsened.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/IF-ONLY...-President-McKinley-Assassination>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/IF-ONLY...-President-McKinley-Assassination>



McKinley Assassination - Path of the Bullet

Image online, courtesy [University at Buffalo Libraries](#).

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Dr. Matthew Mann

Image online, courtesy [University at Buffalo Libraries](#).

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Dr. Roswell Park

Image online, courtesy [University at Buffalo Libraries](#).

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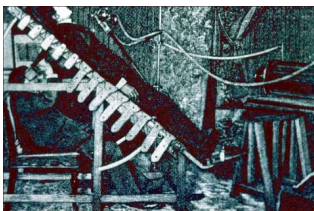


McKinley Assassination - Gathering Crowds

Image online, courtesy [University at Buffalo Libraries](#).

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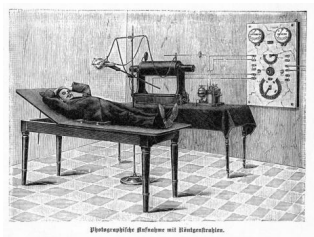
X-Ray Machine Exposes Operator to Radiation

Image online, courtesy RadScan, a Portugese-language website.

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Early X-Ray Machine with Induction Coil

Image online, courtesy [University of Innsbruck](#).

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Harmful Effects of X-rays - Dr. Kassabian's Hands

Image online, courtesy Institute of Radiology and Imaging Science.

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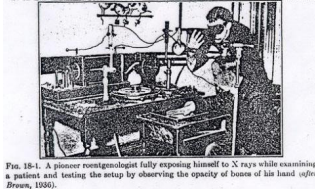


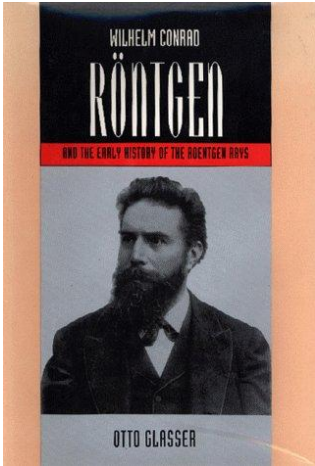
FIG. 18-1. A pioneer roentgenologist fully exposing himself to X rays while examining a patient and testing the setup by observing the opacity of bones of his hand (after Brown, 1986).

Dangerous Side of X-rays

Image online, courtesy Institute of Radiology and Imaging Science.

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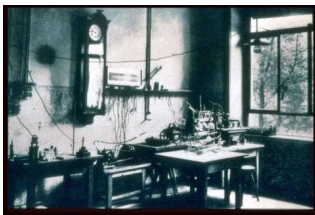
View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Dangerous-Side-of-X-rays>



William Conrad Roentgen - by Otto Glasser

Book-cover image, online courtesy Google Books.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/William-Conrad-Roentgen-by-Otto-Glasser>



Roentgen's Lab at Wurzburg University

Image online, courtesy Nobel Prize website.

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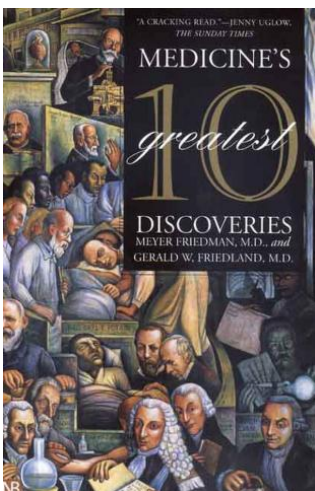
Physical Institute at the University of Wurzburg

Image online, courtesy University of Würzburg.

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Medicine's 10 Greatest Discoveries - by Friedman and Friedland

Image online, courtesy Yale University Press and Google Books.

View this asset at:

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Anna Bertha Roentgen

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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William Conrad Roentgen - Photo

Image online, courtesy Library of Congress. PD

Quoted passages from *Mavericks, Miracles, and Medicine*, by Julie Fenster, as noted above.

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/William-Conrad-Roentgen-Photo>



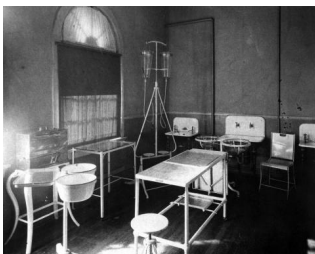
First X-ray - 1895 - Anna Bertha Roentgen's Hand

Image online, courtesy Library of Congress.

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