

Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen - The discovery of X-rays and the creation of a new medical profession

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February 10, 2023, marked the 100th anniversary of the death of Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen. Reason enough to remember the scientist who discovered a “new kind of rays” on November 8, 1895, and wrote his first scientific paper on X-rays in just six weeks of research. Two more publications were to follow, and Röntgen laid the foundation for the physical clarification of X-rays and paved the way for the success story of their application in a wide variety of fields that continues to this day. In the first year after the discovery of X-rays, a total of 49 books and brochures and 1044 scientific papers were written on scientific aspects as well as on the possible applications of the newly discovered rays. Many of these publications already dealt specifically with possible medical applications. Thus, the year 1896 plays a special role in the history of radiology due to its groundbreaking discoveries and inventions in X-ray diagnostics and also in radiation therapy.

Summary

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