

[Heald CB \(1929\)](#). The present position of ultraviolet light therapy. *BMJ* 1:94-97.

Key passages

THE PRESENT POSITION OF ULTRA-VIOLET LIGHT THERAPY.*

BY

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Conclusion.

Before drawing this review to an end I would like to refer briefly to a small investigation that has just been completed, thanks to the facilities given me by Professor Mellroy, and to the unsparing work of Dr. Bunbury, my late clinical assistant. In this investigation the mothers of every alternate baby born in the maternity wards at the Royal Free Hospital from January to June were given a series of doses of light, and record was kept of the weights of their babies at birth, at 11 days, at 6 weeks, and at 12 weeks. The remaining babies constituted the controls. In this way approximately 1 ton weight of babies have been observed. Though the final figures have not yet been collated it is possible to state that the increase of weight of sixty-five babies whose mothers had had irradiation was *plus* 28.5 per cent. at the end of six weeks, and of a similar non-irradiated group *plus* 20.3 per cent. All other figures are on the same scale, and indicate how careful one must be before claiming that "light treatment" is "wonderful" for nursing mothers or for any other purpose.