

monary disease, such as soft water consumption, lack of exercise, increased sucrose and decreased vegetable fiber intakes, may enhance the ratio of zinc to copper absorbed from the gut. This may be a mechanism for their hypercholesterolemic effect.

In ruminants, where both copper deficiencies and toxicities are problems in various parts of the world, several advances were reported. N. F. Suttle (Moredun Research Institute, Edinburgh) described a depletion - repletion technique, applicable to mature sheep, for assessing availability of dietary copper sources. Using this technique, Suttle demonstrated that the classical copper - molybdenum - sulfur interrelationships are of greater magnitude than heretofore thought at levels of these elements normally encountered in sheep rations, and that the site of this interaction is at the gut rather than at the tissue level. A. G. Spais (University of Thessaloniki) reported that dietary cyanide decreased, and that dietary thiocyanate enhanced copper storage in lambs. G. Weiner (Animal Breeding Research Organization, Edinburgh) found significant differences among several breeds of sheep in whole blood copper levels. Some, but not all, of these were associated with hemoglobin type.

Proceedings, will full manuscripts of invited papers and extended manuscripts of contributions, will be published by Univ. Park Press, Baltimore, Md. U. S. A. Contact Dr. J. W. Suttle, Dept. of Biochemistry, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin 53706, U.S.A. for information on proceedings. TEMA 3 will be held in 1977, probably at a location in Europe. A newsletter to give tentative plans is expected in about 6 months.

NSF-RANN TRACE CONTAMINANTS ABSTRACTS. Oak Ridge Nat'l Lab Series ORNL-EIS-73-60. We have received Vol No. 1 (June 1973) of this series, which will be an account of work sponsored by the NSF-RANN Environmental Aspects of Trace Contaminants Program as prepared by the Toxic Materials Information Center, Environmental Information Systems Office at Oak Ridge, TN.

FOR THE NEXT ISSUE

*Please file with my copy of the letter*

The Environmental Defense Fund, unlike SEGR, is action oriented and one expects it to take advocacy positions on a variety of issues including trace substances and health. The purpose of quoting below from one of their recent reports is to solicit letters to the editor of INTERFACE based on the informed opinion of SEGR members on the two issues below:

1. "As a result of successful EDF litigation, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued emission standards on April 6 for asbestos, mercury and beryllium.

The standards do not, however, provide adequate regulation of these substances. For example, asbestos emitted from mines, mills and construction sites is not regulated because EPA maintains that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and other Federal agencies should regulate such emissions. EDF maintains that although safety measures taken by such agencies may protect workers, people living near asbestos operations are not protected. EDF filed suit on May 7 to force EPA to review the asbestos, mercury and beryllium standards." (EDF Letter, May, 1973, p 3)

SHOULD EPA REGULATE INDUSTRIAL EMISSIONS OF ASBESTOS, Hg AND Be TO CONTROL "HALO" OR NEIGHBOR PROBLEMS?

2. "Since October 1969, EDF has been involved in regulatory proceedings and litigation in California against leaded gasoline. Lead released into the atmosphere damages the health of many Americans. Cars burning leaded gasoline cause 90% of this pollution." (EDF Letter, May 1973, p 3)

IS THERE EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE STATEMENT THAT, "LEAD EMITTED INTO THE ATMOSPHERE DAMAGES THE HEALTH OF MANY AMERICANS" OR IS THIS AN UNDERSTANDABLY CAUTIOUS EXTRAPOLATION FROM THE ESTABLISHED EFFECTS OF HIGHER DOSE RATES?

Please reply by Oct. 15 for consideration of your letter for publication in the Fall issue of INTERFACE.

*Dr. Don Horvath*