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STANDARD INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE

- 512 Effects of Intravenous and Intraperitoneal Introduction of Polyvinyl Alcohol Solutions on the Blood. W.C. Haepfer and others. *J. Pharmacol.*, **70**, 201-10 (1941). Polyvinyl alcohol is a long-chained polymer which forms a viscous colloidal solution in water. The immediate effects of intravenous injection in dogs and rabbits are a decrease in erythrocytes and hemoglobin and an increase in sedimentation rate due to accelerated conglutination. Repeated injections impair or suppress clotting. The general effects are much like those produced by acacia solution. Polyvinyl alcohol is retained in the blood, spleen, liver, kidneys, lymph nodes, etc., for many weeks.
- 513 Chronic Poisoning by Benzene Vapors. G. Penni and C. DeStefanis. *Rass. med. ind.* **11**, 516-38 (1940). (Italian). In experiments on guinea pigs and albino rats at a concentration of benzene (not purified, containing benzene) of 0.015 g. per l. air, a true poisoning was not observed; at the concentration of 0.025 g. per l. the toxic action begins, but disappears if the inhalation ceases; with greater concentrations there is a serious toxic action. The histological results are shown and discussed.
- 514 Industrial Solvents as Possible Etiologic Agents in Myeloid Metaplasia. R. Rawson and others. *Science* **93**, 541-2 (June 6, 1941). A comparison of the histologic findings in agnogenic (cause unknown) myeloid metaplasia with those found in chronic benzol poisoning together with certain clinical evidence led to an investigation into the occupational histories of the patients in this clinic with myeloid metaplasia. All of the six available for study gave a history of exposure to certain industrial solvents including benzene and carbon tetrachloride. The facts suggest that exposure in some individuals to certain fat solvents may result in the clinical picture previously described as agnogenic myeloid metaplasia.
- 515 A Portable Unit for the Determination of Halogenated Hydrocarbons. H.C. Dudley. *Pub. Health Repts.*, **56**, 1021-1027 (May 9, 1941). This is a description in detail of a portable unit for the thermal decomposition and determination of halogenated hydrocarbons in air. The principle of this sampling device is similar to that employed by others, the air stream being passed through some type of heated tube, which serves to decompose the organic halides. Chemical tests are finally employed -- the gravimetric determination of the silver halides having been found to be more advantageous with smaller amounts of halogens. Analysis of standard samples indicates that, at a sampling rate of 2.5 liters per minute, recovery of carbon tetrachloride and trichloroethylene is quantitative.
- 516 The Prophylactic Use of Sulfonated Oil in Cement Dermatitis. I. Pincus. *N.Y. State J. Med.*, **40**, 1391-3 (1940). Two cases of cement dermatitis are presented, which resisted all attempts at permanent cure until sulfonated castor oil was used instead of soap. The irritant action of soap is based on the type of fatty acids and the alkaline reaction. The mixed fatty acids in sulfonated castor oil show a minimum irritation and the pH is slightly on the acid side.
- 517 Occupational Dermatitis in Cigar Makers Due to Contact with Tobacco Leaves. F. Varo and S. Genovese. *Arch. Derm. & Syphil.*, **43**, 257-263 (February, 1941). A report of three cases of occupational dermatitis in cigar makers working in the same factory. It was due to contact with tobacco leaves and was attributed to acquired sensitivity to recently fermented tobacco leaves. The condition in all three cases proved recalcitrant to all therapeutic measures and cleared up only when working with tobacco was discontinued. In determining the cause of dermatitis in this industry, acquired sensitivity must be kept in mind.