

566

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ride, treacle, malt extract, dried yeast and potassium bromate. It was found that all the bakers who had suffered from dermatitis had been using yeast foods or accelerators containing ammonium or potassium persulphate and that the outbreak of dermatitis followed a few months after the introduction of this chemical in yeast foods, a practice new in Australia.

Water suspensions or solutions of whole products were used in testing. A typical subject, when tested, shows a marked wheal and erythema to most of the substances mentioned above, particularly malt wheat flour, while the reaction to ammonium persulphate in 5 to 10 per cent solutions is a great wheal and marked erythema which persist often for days, whereas the other reactions disappear within an hour or two. Often the testing lights up a resolving dermatitis. A 1 per cent solution applied over a few minutes does not produce a marked reaction.

Individuals unaffected by dermatitis have not reacted to these substances. Does the practice of bleaching flours have any bearing on this question? A critical appreciation of the results so far obtained will be published later, but one is tempted to forecast that bakers' dermatitis in Sydney in 1929 resulted from the unfortunate association of allergic individuals with aqueous solutions of persulphate.—Charles Badham *et al.* (see previous abstracts) E. R. H.

The Use of X-ray Machines in Shops or Other Industrial Places—It was found that in the use of X-ray machines in boot departments of several city shops the erythema dose which might produce burns to the customer was over 25 minutes where all the rays come through a lead glass covering the screen, but that a leakage around the screen might lead to a burn in a shorter time. As the exposure when fitting a shoe is generally well under a minute

there would appear to be little danger unless the use were repeated on successive weeks.

The machines however revealed a very definite hazard to the operator, particularly from insufficient protection from leakage around the screen.

It was therefore recommended: (1) that all X-ray machines in shops or other industrial places should be licensed after testing and inspection by the Board of Health; (2) that the present machines be immediately protected to the satisfaction of the Board of Health; (3) that in the case of machines used for shoe fitting, a notice be posted warning customers that their feet should not be exposed for more than 3 minutes in any one month, and that the use of the machines to search for needles and such like bodies is dangerous.—Charles Badham *et al.* (see previous abstracts).

E. R. H.

Chronic Lead Poisoning in Infancy and Early Childhood—The Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, as a result of a recent inquiry among prominent pediatricians, calls attention to the large number of cases of lead poisoning occurring among infants and children. The brief note points out that a Boston physician reports 50 cases of lead poisoning among children at a Boston hospital during the past 6 years. In these cases the diagnosis was proved beyond doubt, the source of lead being the paint on cribs, woodwork and toys.

It seems obvious that the simple precaution of using zinc paints in these cases should be resorted to. Lead poisoning due to the use of nipple shields and of lead ointments on the breasts of mothers was also considered a source of poisoning by the physicians interviewed.—*Stat. Bull.*, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, 11, 10: 4 (Oct.), 1930. L. G.

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