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STANDARD
INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE

- 518 Colliers' Stripes -- The Coal Miners' Dermatitis. F.R. Bettley. Brit. J. Dermatol., 52, 129 (April, 1940).
Colliers' stripes appear on exposed parts as numerous linear and irregularly shaped marks; the result of an accidental tattooing of coal dust into the skin. It has been claimed that these wounds rarely suppurate and that the particles of coal do not excite any reaction in the tissues. This author's observations disagree with those claims. Suppuration occurs no less than is to be expected, and histologically he has found a foreign body reaction, particularly near blood vessels.
- 519 Skin Troubles and Machine Tools. A. Duckham. Engineer (London) 169, 501-2 (May 31, 1940); Machinery (London) 56, 188-9 (May 9, 1940).
The author's experience with oil dermatitis began nearly 40 years ago, when the bacterial origin theory was considered sufficient. In the light of additional knowledge, bacterial contamination is considered a factor, but not the main factor. The author attributes the disease primarily to the stoppage of the skin pores by oil containing metal dust and other dirt, interfering with the natural discharge of perspiration. Loss of the natural grease of the skin is also a factor. Inflammation is followed by suppuration and in that stage the disease is infective. The preventive measures suggested include protection by an oil-resisting ointment (or water-resisting when emulsions are used), use of lanolin to restore grease to the skin, and general cleanliness of machine and cooling oils.
- 520 Industrial Dermatitis. D.C. Straus. Nat. Safety News, 43, 36, 82 (January, 1941).
In Illinois, during the first two years of operation of the Occupational Diseases Act of 1936, 107 claims out of a total of 474, or 22.5% were for occupational skin diseases. In 1939 the ratio had risen to 39.3%, which was a higher percentage than for any other type of occupational disease. A similar increase has occurred in 5 other states. Among dishwashers, one of the larger groups most subject to dermatitis, and among bottle sealers, sodium hexametaphosphate applied to the hands and dried before working, proved completely successful in combating dermatitis from washing compounds containing chlorine. In tanneries, sodium hyposulfite has been found very effective as a preventive. "Chemical gloves" or skin coatings insoluble in the solvents being handled are of two types, water-soluble and watertight. The first type gives good protection against paint, lacquers, varnishes, oils, greases, waxes, thinners, carbon black, lead oxides, carbon paper, etc. The second type is used for protection against cutting compounds and cooling lubricants in which the water content exceeds 10%, and with strong acid and alkaline solutions.
- 521 Prevention of Oil Dermatitis. Anonymous. N.Y. State Ind. Bull., 20, 92-93 (March, 1941).
The belief has developed, and is accepted today, that in the prevention of dermatitis the emphasis must be put not on cleansing the oil but on cleansing the worker. Experiments have shown that by regular and vigorous attention to removing the residue of oil and dirt from the skin after each exposure, long strides will have been made toward the prevention of dermatitis. A discussion of proper cleansing methods and protective coatings follows.
- 522 The Behavior of Blood Calcium in the Chronic Poisoning by Mercury Vapor. A. Gori Savellini and A. Lucacchini. Rass. med. ind. 11, 573-83 (1940). (Italian).
In the rabbits and guinea pigs which inhaled mercury vapor for 40 to 110 hours (4 hours per day) the blood calcium first increased, then decreased even to percentages under the normal.