

Abstracts of Current Literature

General

THE LETHAL EFFECTS OF TRIETHYLENE GLYCOL VAPOR ON DRIED AIR-BORNE BACTERIA. O. H. ROBERTSON and W. LESTER JR., *Am. J. Hyg.* **53**:69-79 (Jan.) 1951.

A study was made of the bactericidal action of triethylene glycol vapor on air-borne microorganisms which had been desiccated. The preparations were finely ground and dispersed in the air as dusts. Glycol was evaporated rapidly and in sufficient quantity to saturate the air quickly, so that the rate of killing could be determined. Observations included the effects on glycol action of relative humidity, duration of the period of desiccation, nature of suspending medium and size of bacterial particles.

Dried bacteria were more susceptible to the lethal action of glycol than were fresh bacteria. The rate of killing of air-borne bacteria was highest at low humidity, e. g., 15 to 20 per cent. As the duration of the air-drying period was extended from five hours to 20 hours, the rate at which glycol killed at low humidities was much diminished, particularly so when the bacteria were suspended in saliva. Determinations of particle size revealed the fact that glycol vapor is effective against bacterial particles as large as 8 to 10 microns in diameter, although they are not killed as rapidly as those of 3 to 4 microns or less.

ADAPTATION OF AUTHORS' SUMMARY.

HOW GOOD IS THE INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE PROGRAM? HERBERT K. ABRAMS, *Am. J. Pub. Health* **40**:1225 (Oct.) 1950.

In the United States there are only 57 local and state industrial hygiene units, employing a total of only 416 persons, including 37 physicians and 42 nurses. The incidence of industrial diseases, on the other hand, is estimated as one-tenth to one-fifteenth that of industrial accidents, which caused the loss of 41,000,000 man-days to industry in 1947-1948. The challenge to local and state health departments is thus pointed out, and several questions are raised and suggestions offered as to how this can be met most adequately. The work of health departments is emphasized in regard to plant sanitation, control of industrial communicable and chronic diseases, special problems of female and farm workers, public health and industrial nursing, education of the labor force on health matters, promotion of group medical and nursing services for plants with small numbers of workers, and the stimulation of local industrial health interest.

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A COMMUNITY LOOKS AT THE INDUSTRIAL HEALTH PROBLEMS: REPORT OF AN INDUSTRIAL HEALTH SURVEY, SAN DIEGO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA. CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH, San Francisco, 1950.

In 1949, 415 establishments representing manufacturing, nonmanufacturing and agricultural industries were studied with regard to existing industrial health problems. The investigation disclosed inadequate industrial health services, particularly in agriculture, and the need for effective controls of occupational hazards.

The 26 page report discusses the purposes and the execution of an adequate industrial health service. The plan of the survey, with sample information forms, and the accumulated data are appended.

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VETERINARY SCIENCE, AN IMPORTANT ASPECT OF INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE. ARTHUR WOLFF, *Indust. Hyg. Newsletter* **10**:2 (May) 1950.

Many infectious diseases of animals can be transmitted to man through occupational contact with infected animals or their products. Common examples are brucellosis, anthrax, tularemia, actinomycosis and hydatid cysts. Therefore, veterinary science enters into the study of industrial