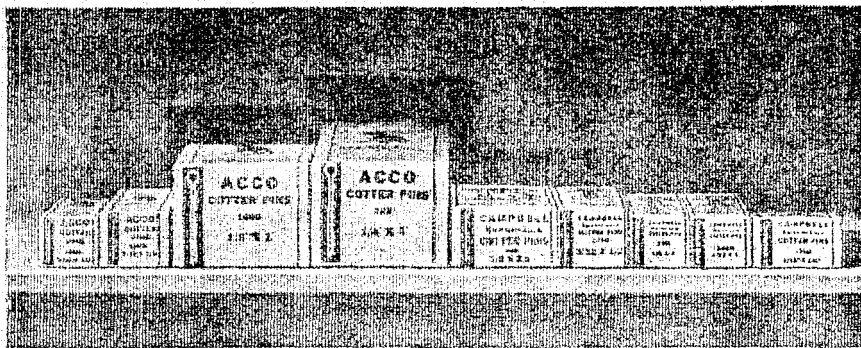


FILE NAME: National Safety Council (NSC)

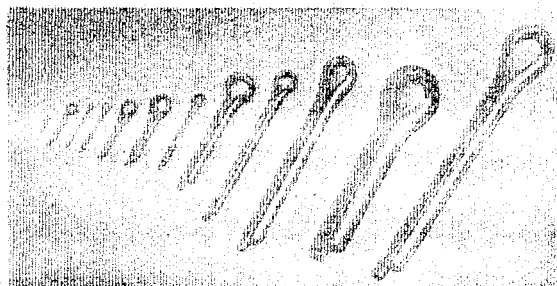
DATE: 1945 June

DOC#: NSC220

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: NSC - National Safety News - Pneumoconiosis

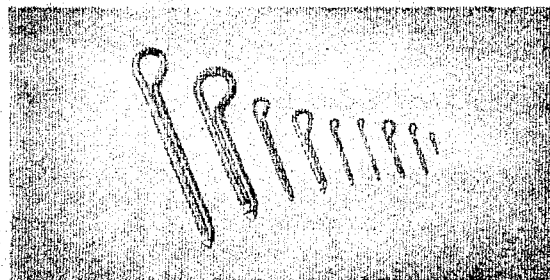


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## INDUSTRIAL HEALTH

(From page 34)

antidotal value of hypnotics in acute poisoning, and on the condition of the vasomotor and respiratory centers and the central nervous system reflexes in the terminal stages of DDT poisoning.

Results indicate considerable species difference in the effects produced by administration of DDT. For instance, the rabbit shows severe and uniform liver damage while the cat shows scarcely any. Possibly the metabolism of this substance is not the same in the two species which possibly accounts for the difference. Low protein diet seems to contribute slightly to the general toxicity but does not materially alter the susceptibility of the liver to the toxic action of this compound.

Studies on the action of a series of hypnotics and related compounds in acute DDT poisoning in rats indicate good antidotal effects from urethane and to a lesser degree from dilantin.

### Pneumoconiosis

*From the Journal of the American Medical Association, March 24, 1945.*

Many other conditions besides silicosis and benign pneumoconiosis may produce a similar x-ray appearance of the lungs. Among these are spreading cancer, Hodgkin's Disease, miliary tuberculosis, lipid pneumonitis, and parasitic and fungus infections of various kinds.

Diagnosing between pneumoconiosis of any variety and any of the above conditions depends largely upon the clinical features of the case, a searching history to establish or exclude an occupational exposure to dust, a thorough physical examination and appropriate laboratory study.

It is impossible for the x-ray specialist to tell the difference between the nodulation resulting from the reactive fibrosis produced by free silica in the lung tissues and the shadows of pseudo-nodulation cast by the opaque substance itself in benign pneumoconiosis. Therefore, in order to differentiate between silicosis and benign pneumoconiosis one must have recourse to a much detailed occupational history and, whenever possible, firsthand knowledge of the environmental conditions surrounding the worker. Frequently an industrial hygiene survey of the plant must be made to determine the nature and concentration of the dust to which the employee is exposed.

Advanced silicosis with conglomerate nodulation is often a disabling dis-

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ease, and when silicosis is complicated by tuberculosis it is fatal. Asbestosis, when extensive, reduces pulmonary ventilation. This may embarrass the heart and induce cardiac failure.

Benign pneumoconiosis produces nothing but "shadows cast on a roentgenogram."

For these reasons it is unfair to the worker, to labor and to industry for the clinician and the roentgenologist to take their responsibilities lightly when they are called on to distinguish between silicosis or asbestosis on the one hand and benign pneumoconiosis on the other.

### Physical Impairment

*From "Physical Impairment and Job Performance," Journal of the American Medical Association, April 7, 14, 1945.*

This report presents the results of a study made of job performance of 2,858 physically impaired male and female workers as compared with that of 5,523 able-bodied male and female workers of similar age, experience and occupational characteristics from the standpoints of accident experience, production and efficiency, sick absenteeisms and employment stability.

The average accident frequency rate for the physically impaired was found to be higher than the average frequency rate for the able-bodied. An excessive number of accidents in certain physical defect classes contributed heavily to the accident frequency rate of the impaired group. However, the physically impaired experienced proportionately less severe accidents than the able-bodied.

There is evidence that a psychological element relating to some types of physical impairments plays an important role in causing significant variations of frequency rate among the several classes of physical defects found among impaired workers in this study. Although this psychological element also exists among the able-bodied, it has greater significance among workers with certain types of physical defects from the standpoint of prevention of further impairment by second injuries and determining a safe threshold of absorption of physically impaired workers into certain types of industries without raising over-all accident and severity rate or production costs in those industries.

This psychological element in accident proneness cannot be measured or altered either by ordinary interview or by matching physical capacities or other qualifications to physical and other demands of jobs. It can to some extent be detected before employment by means of tests which partially measure