992 Efficiency of Criteria of Stress in Toxicological Tests.
H. F. Smyth, Jr., C. S. Weil, E. M. Adams, and R. L. Hollingsworth.
Arch. Ind. Hyg. & Occ. Med. 6, 32-36 (July 1952).

In toxicological studies, many and varied criteria are relied upon to demonstrate that a material has produced an effect. The criteria differ widely in the efficiency with which they reveal effect. Data from two laboratories are presented to indicate the value of a more thorough study of the efficiency of the criteria commonly followed in repeated-intake experiments, and to emphasize the high efficiency of liver and kidney weights measured in relation to total body weight.

-- Authors' Summary

993 The Causes of Death among Gas-Workers with Special Reference to Cancer of the Lung. R. Doll. Brit. J. Ind. Med. 9, 180-185 (July, 1952).

The causes of death among a group of pensioned workers of a large London gas company have been compared with those occurring generally among men in London. Among the pensioners, there were 840 deaths against 856 which could have been expected. Individual causes of death (or groups of causes) showed no appreciable difference from the expected numbers with the exception of lung cancer; 25 deaths were attributed to lung cancer against 13.8 expected. The excess mortality from lung cancer occurred principally among employees engaged on the production of gas and on the treatment of waste products (17 observed deaths to 8.6 expected). The deaths occurring among the workers concerned with gas distribution (eight observed to 5.2 expected) were too few to determine whether they were also exposed to any specific risk, or if they were, whether the risk was different from that suffered by the works employees.

-- Author's Summary

INDUSTRIAL DUSTS

994 Coalminers' Pneumoconiosis. W. D. Evans.
Coll. Eng. 28, 465-471, 474, 513-518 (Nov., Dec. 1951).

The author approaches the problem of coalminers' pneumoconiosis from a new angle. The cause of the variation in incidence of pneumoconiosis in British and especially in Welsh mines has long been puzzling. The author discusses the effects of silica in different forms, but rejects silica as a cause of the pneumoconiosis generally encountered in those mines,