

less hazardous substances which disintegrate spontaneously into non-toxic forms is an urgent need.

In the meantime it appears to be desirable that public health authorities conduct an educational campaign among physicians, especially those located in industrial and mining centers and in agricultural districts in which the use of arsenical insecticides is common, concerning the symptomatology, diagnosis, and therapy of acute and chronic arsenical poisoning and the conditions of exposure to arsenicals. Postmortem examinations of all cases suspected of arsenical poisonings should be made whenever possible in order to determine not only the well recognized hazard of cutaneous malignancy, but to study also the controversial question of arsenical malignancies in other organs, such as the lung, mouth, esophagus, stomach, intestine and liver.

XVI. MEDICO-LEGAL ASPECTS

Arsenical dermatosis and cancers are recognized compensable occupational diseases in a number of countries (Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Sweden, Switzerland, and in a number of states of the United States [New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, Wisconsin], Porto Rico). The effectiveness of the laws in force in some of the countries and states named is impaired, however, as far as the protection of the worker is concerned, by the existence of limiting time clauses.

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