

- Education for Industrial (Occupational) Medical Practice. W. F. Ashe.
J. Occ. Med. 2, 305-311 (July 1960).

Occupational medicine is defined as the study of man and the environment of his work and the control of that environment for the purpose of health, safety, and optimum productivity. Certain noteworthy things have happened in the 12 years that have elapsed since we began to apply ourselves seriously to the preparation of physicians for this special practice. These include a broadening of concepts from those implied in the earlier term, industrial medicine; formal graduate training of physicians; and a formal mechanism of certification. The structure of the training programs emerged from a study of the needs and opportunities of industrial practitioners, with elaborations being made to suit changing circumstances. Facilities are needed that will permit and encourage self-preparation of practitioners for the examination in occupational medicine given by the American Board of Preventive Medicine. The services of fully trained specialists, in large corporations at least, must as a practical matter be augmented by the work of physicians who are partially trained or whose basic interest is in some field other than this specialty. -- Author's summary

SKIN DISEASES AND BURNS

- 41 Analysis of 500 Allergic Dermatitis. G. Wagner.
Berufedermatosen 7, 307-319 (Dec. 1959). German.

This is an account of 500 cases of contact eczema seen in a period of about 3 years in the Dermatological Clinic of Kiel University, in which the allergic origin of the skin condition was diagnosed by means of the skin patch test. Among the 500 patients there were 279 (55.8%) men and 221 (44.2%) women. In about 45% of all cases the allergic state was of industrial origin. In the industrial materials group of allergens, of which a list is given, the most frequent was cement containing hexavalent chromium salts, and the next frequent were flour improvers containing persulfate. The most important in the medicament group were substances containing a para-amino group in the benzene ring, of which the sulfonamides caused 41 cases. In the clothing group there were 22 cases of eczema caused by nickel buckles. Next in importance were dyestuffs, particularly those having a p-phenylene diamine grouping. The cosmetic group included cold wave preparations, hair dyes and other "make up" materials. The frequency of allergic skin conditions in different occupations is fully considered and an examination made of the diagnostic value of the skin test and the "standard test series" of materials used in the test at the Kiel clinic.

-- Cond. from Bull. Hyg.

- 42 Dermatoses from Phenylmercuric Salts. G. E. Morris.
Arch. Environmental Health 1, 53-55 (July 1960).

Sensitivity to phenylmercuric salts must be considered when people develop eruptions of the legs after spreading weed or crab-grass killers; the eruption may also appear on the hands from handling the product. Sensitization dermatitis in other body areas may be due to a phenylmercuric salt being used as a primary antiseptic, as a preservative in ointments, or as a spermicidal agent in contraceptive jellies.

-- Author's conclusion.

- 43 Pathogenesis of Silica Granulomas in Man: A Non-Allergic Colloidal Phenomenon.
W. B. Shelley and H. J. Hurley. J. Invest. Dermatol. 34, 107 (1960).

The essential features of a silica granuloma ("pseudo-tuberculoma sillicoticum") are as follows: (1) appears at a site where foreign material containing silica is introduced, usually as a result of an injury; (2) appears as localized nodules after a completely asymptomatic latent period, the duration of which is measured in years; (3) appears histologically