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INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE DIGEST
Literature and News

NEWS ITEMS

315 Safeguard and other Antibacterial Soaps.

Soaps containing antibacterial agents are offered for the prevention of body and perspiration odors and for the prevention of some bacterial skin infections. The antibacterial drugs most often added to soaps and detergents are hexachlorophene and halogenated carbanilides and salicylanilides. Hexachlorophene and a chlorinated carbanilide are the antiseptics in Dial soap (Armour); a brominated salicylanilide is the antiseptic agent in Lifebuoy (Lever Bros.). Safeguard (Procter & Gamble), the newest of such soaps, contains two carbanilides and two salicylanilides. An antibacterial soap may possibly be useful in helping prevent cutaneous infections in machinists, packing-house workers, persons working with petroleum oils, and greases, and others who are especially subject to such infections. There is no soap, antibacterial or otherwise, known to be effective in the treatment of bacterial skin infections. Moreover, there is no scientific support on biological or medical grounds for the routine removal of harmless microbial flora from normal skin. One reason antibacterial soaps should not routinely be used where there is no special need for them is that any antiseptic may act as a skin sensitizer. Hexachlorophene has been known to cause allergic contact dermatitis, although no reports of photosensitivity reactions have thus far appeared. Two well-documented cases of photosensitivity reactions to the salicylanilide present in Lifebuoy soap were recently reported, with cross-photosensitivity to another salicylanilide (S. Epstein and T. Enta, JAMA, 194:1016, Nov. 29, 1965). Since Safeguard contains salicylanilides, physicians should be alert, especially in the summer, to its potential for causing photosensitivity reactions. A few cases of such reactions to Safeguard have already been observed.
-- The Medical Letter 8, 10-11 (Feb. 11, 1966)

316 Bee Stings and Antibodies.

Sera drawn from 39 beekeepers, stung an estimated 50-2,000 times per week, contained a significant titer of hemagglutinating antibodies, investigators from the State University of New York at Buffalo report. These substances, reactive to either bee venom or sacless body antigens, were not present in eight of nine beekeepers stung less than ten times per week. Hemagglutinins probably reflect the well-known immunity to stings found in such persons, Robert E. Reisman, M. D., and associates reported to the American Academy of Allergy.
-- J. Am. Med. Assn. 195, 45 (Mar. 7, 1966)

317 Medical Records.

Keeping good medical records can be a problem for small industrial plants, whose medical department frequently consists of at most one industrial nurse, who may be without physician guidance or supervision. Yet there is a great potential contribution to the health and safety of American workers in the keeping of good medical records, the more so since the majority of workers are employed by small companies. Accordingly, the AMA's Council on Occupational Health has prepared a "Guide to the Development of an Industrial Medical Records System." Single copies are available without charge from the Department of Occupational Health, American Medical Association, 535 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60610.
-- J. Am. Med. Assn. 195, 10 (Mar. 7, 1966)

318 Travel for Toxicologists.

The U. S. Public Health Service, Division of Accident Prevention, will furnish travel funds for about three dozen forensic toxicologists to go to Copenhagen, Denmark, to attend the Fourth International Meeting in Forensic Medicine. The meeting will be held August 15 to 18. Funds will cover transportation via a charter flight, five days per-diem support, and half of the plane fare from the home of the recipient to point of take-off of the nearest charter flight. Write M. F. Mason, Parkland Memorial Hospital, Dallas, Texas 75235 for further information.
-- Chem. Eng. News 44, 74 (Feb. 21, 1966)

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