

- 54 THE TRAVELERS CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTOR. Travelers Standard 26, 164-6 (September 1938).
A carbon monoxide detector which is inexpensive and easily assembled has been developed by the Travelers Insurance Company. The method consists in converting the carbon monoxide in the sample to carbon dioxide by means of a cigar lighter coil and absorbing the converted carbon dioxide in a strontium hydroxide solution. The sample is first cleared of carbon dioxide and any hydrocarbons by passing it through calcium oxide and silica gel. A 10 inch bicycle pump is used as the source of suction.
- 55 ACUTE LEUCOSIS FROM BENZENE. M. Perrin, P. Kissel and L. Pierquin. Paris med. 28, 533-E (1938). (French).
The authors report in detail the case of a shoe factory worker, a 44 year old woman, who had repeatedly suffered symptoms of acute rheumatism of the joints then fell ill with fever, very severe anemic condition, skin hemorrhages, dyspnea and weakness. The blood count showed 1.56 million red cells, 1800 white cells, 16 per cent polynuclear cells, 16 per cent polynuclear neutrophils, 1 per cent polynuclear basophilic cells, 9 per cent large mononuclears, 17 per cent leucoblasts and many streptococci in the blood. At autopsy the bone marrow was seen to be in marked proliferation but the white blood cells of the myelogram were exclusively leucoblasts. It was an acute leucemia which was hidden by a hypogranulocytosis and there thus existed not a true aplasia of the bone marrow but a metaplastic proliferation. Benzene poisoning, which in its classic form causes an aplastic myelosis, is under certain conditions (according to exposure and sensitivity) also an irritant of the hemopoietic tissues, causing a leucemic symptom complex, acute or chronic. This latter would be seen more often, no doubt, if systematic myelograms were made.
- 56 BENZENE POISONING IN A PREGNANT WOMAN. J. Leronge. Progres. med. 82, 901 (1938) (French).
A woman rubber worker suffered fatigue and anemia (2.1 million red cells, 11,000 white cells) from benzene poisoning. After a few weeks away from her work the red cell count rose to 3.6 million. The delivery of her child was normal but the child weighed only 2.8 kilograms (6.2 lbs.)
- 57 MERCURY POISONING IN MINING. J. Am. Med. Assoc. (Queries and minor notes) 111, 467 (1938).
The inquiry concerns the possibility of being acutely poisoned by mercury vapor in a day's work in a gold mine, and the determination of mercury or lead poisoning several months later. The reply states that, with high concentrations, mercury poisoning can take place in a few hours, although hard rock mining seldom offers a hazard. Stomatitis is the chief symptom in acute poisoning from the compounds. In poisoning from the vapor, the symptoms are tumor, central nervous system signs, diarrhea and nausea; and some of the muscular and nervous symptoms may persist. Mercury does not always appear in the urine of poisoned persons. References are made to methods of determination in urine and in air.
- 58 A SIMPLIFIED PROCEDURE FOR THE DETERMINATION OF MERCURY IN URINE. A.O. Gettler and R.A. Lehman. Am. J. Clin. Path. Tech. Supplement 2, 161-4 (1938).
A 50 cc. portion of the urine is ashed in a 500 cc. Kjeldahl by means of potassium permanganate and sulfuric acid. The mercury is determined by means of the color compared with that of known standards. The ordinary chemically pure reagents were found to be satisfactory. The time required for a series of five determinations is about three hours. The procedure is more rapid than the Winkler method and equally accurate.

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