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JOSEPH B. WOLFFE AND SAMUEL BETTET. *Ann. Internal Med.* 4, 795-803(1931).

JOHN T. MYERS

Tribromoethanol anesthesia. RALPH W. WATERS AND G. W. MUEHLBERGER. *Arch. Surgery* 21, 887-911(1930).—When kept at room temp., 3% solns. of tribromoethanol are stable toward hydrolysis for 24-48 hrs. It has practically the same margin of safety as other commonly used anesthetics, i. e., $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ of the fatal dose. With proper precautions, 0.1 g. per kg. body wt. can be safely given. It is useful, given intravenously, in very short operations, as it gives quick pleasant induction and recovery without gastro-intestinal disturbance.

JOHN T. MYERS

The toxicity of atmospheres containing hydrocyanic acid gas. JOSEPH BARCROFT. *J. Hyg.* 31, 1-34(1931).—The sp. power of HCN gas to increase the total ventilation is an important factor in detg. the sp. toxicity of the gas. Man is relatively insusceptible to the inhalation of HCN. The time of exposure sufficient for collapse is about one third of the fatal period of exposure. The extreme susceptibility of the canary makes it very valuable as an indicator of lethal concns. where a chem. indicator is not available. Pigeons are as good since they vomit at the lethal concn. for the canary, although their lethal concn. is about twice as great. Treatment consists of artificial respiration, and the administration of glucose and nitrites.

JOHN T. MYERS

Experimental dust inhalation in guinea pigs. F. HAYNES. *J. Hyg.* 31, 96-123 (1931).—Most inhaled particles contain sol. matter at least to a small extent. The solute may be harmlessly active or toxic. If harmless the cell is stimulated to detach itself from the alveolar wall and to remove the dust. If toxic the solute affects the viability of the phagocyte which becomes less able to detach itself. At the same time the solute diffuses into the neighboring tissues with irritation to them and subsequent fibrosis. The more sol. form of a substance causes the greater damage; hence the solute has much to do with extent of damage. Si is the dust par excellence in predisposing to tuberculosis. The harmful effects of sol. Si may be neutralized by simultaneous administration of basic dusts as Al(OH)₃ or MgCO₃, although the latter are harmful when inhaled alone. It is suggested that the respective solutes combine to form monosilicates which are harmless.

JOHN T. MYERS

Asbestosis bodies in the sputum: a study of specimens from fifty workers in an asbestos mill. F. W. SIMSON AND A. SUTHERLAND STRACHAN. *J. Path. Bact.* 34, 1-4 (1931).—The inhalation of asbestos dust in high concns. leads to the appearance of asbestosis bodies in 48 out of 50 workers examd. The sputum is always mucoid in character. It may resemble egg albumin. The bodies seem to be the result of deposition on the asbestos fiber of an Fe-contg. substance elaborated by the cell. No tubercle bacilli were found in any of these cases.

JOHN T. MYERS

Experimental liver necrosis from shale oil. CYRIL J. POLSON. *J. Path. Bact.* 34, 5-12(1931).—Liver necrosis was produced in rabbits and rats by the intraperitoneal injection of shale oil. By graduating the doses it is possible to produce all stages from acute necrosis to cirrhosis. The poisonous action of the non-carcinogenic residue of shale oil is very slight. The liver was not thus affected in other animals. J. T. M.

The effect of oils on gastric secretion and motility. W. MORRELL ROBERTS. *Quart. J. Med.* 24, 133-52(1931).—The efficiency of oils in inhibiting gastric secretion appears to bear some relationship to the degree of satn. of the constituent fatty acids, less satd. oils being more efficient. The relationship between efficiency and sp. gr. and viscosity is less significant. Of related substances, only free fatty acids show inhibitory properties. Oil diminishes the response of the stomach to food or other substances but not to the effect of histamine. Oil inhibits both psychical and chem. stimulation of secretions. Its effect occurs almost entirely after it leaves the stomach. It diminishes the motility of achlorhydria. The effect on gastric motility is not secondary to its effect on secretion. It seems necessary to assume that oil after absorption exerts some restraining influence on the gastric cells and the motility, or that it leads to the formation or the liberation of some substance which acts in a similar manner.

JOHN T. MYERS

Cholagog action of a few derivatives of the aliphatic series of low molecular weight. ETIENNE CHABROL, R. CHARONNAT, M. MAXIMIN AND R. WAITZ. *Compt. rend. soc. biol.* 106, 15-6(1931).—A study was made of the effects on the cholagog action caused by substituting various groups and atoms for the Cl and the CO₂H group in Cl₃CCO₂H. Conclusions: (1) The cholagog action disappears when the CO₂H group is replaced by an amide, alc. or Me group. (2) BrCH₂CO₂H causes an immediate and powerful cholagog action, but its toxicity is too great for a prolonged study; glycine in a 2-gr. dose doubled the biliary flow during 1 hr. with a 17.5 kg. dog but was completely inactive in doses of 1 gr. with other dogs; glycolic, cyanoacetic, glyoxalic and malonic acids had no