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Industrial Hygiene Digest

INDUSTRIAL HEALTH NEWS

LITERATURE ABSTRACTS

MEDICAL

ENGINEERING

CHEMICAL

TOXICOLOGICAL

LEGAL --- decisions and trends

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Literature and News

NEWS ITEMS

1 Technical Data for Civil Defense.

The November issue of Nucleonics contains a supplement consisting of several brief papers on nucleonics personnel working for, or as consultants to, civil-defense agencies. The subjects include: fission-product decay rates; slow-neutron-induced activities; a dosage calculator; a decontamination chart showing the agents to be used for a variety of contaminated materials; and survey meters for water monitoring.

2 Public Health Journals Merge.

Beginning January, 1952, Public Health Reports, heretofore published weekly, will appear as a monthly periodical. Two other technical publications of the Public Health Service--The Journal of Venereal Disease Information and the Communicable Disease Center Bulletin--are being merged with it, broadening the scope of the publication. There will be more emphasis on administrative procedure, program development, and applied research aspects and less on bench research and clinical material not directly related to public health practice.

3 President Truman Appoints Health Survey Committee.

Paul B. Magnuson, formerly Director of the Veterans Administration, has been assigned as Chairman of a committee recently inaugurated by President Truman covering the health status of the United States. This committee is to make a survey of health conditions and controls, and make their final report at the end of a year. President Truman says, "Present world crises make it particularly important that we should seek to limit the drain of sickness and death on our strain." Mr. Magnuson will be assisted by a staff of fourteen, along with the American Medical Association, and educational and research institutions. The commission is to report on total health requirements and recommend ways of meeting them in both the immediate and distant future.

everybody working in dust-producing places is carefully watched from the time of his work placement to its discontinuation, there will be enough material at hand to clarify what is generally known as the human factor in silicosis. --Cond. from Arch. Ind. Hyg. & Occ. Med.

82 Frequency and Clinical Symptoms of Cancer of the Lung in Silicosis. E. Westermann. Beitrage z. Silikose--Forschung, No. 12, 33pp., (1951). (In German).

Lung carcinoma does not occur more frequently in coal miners than in the general working population. Among 13,900 necropsies at a hospital in the Ruhr coal mining area, 200 cases of lung carcinoma were found. Records of fifty-one cases had been preserved. The diversity of ages of the men, of localization of the tumor, and of complications such as pleuritis, metastases, tuberculosis, bronchitis, pneumonia, etc., all suggest that there is no causal relation between silicosis and tumor.

The data on which these conclusions are based are given in detail. Various case histories and radiographs are given to demonstrate the difficulties of recognizing the carcinoma in the presence of silicosis, especially if tuberculosis is also present. Only six of the fifty-one were, in fact, correctly diagnosed at an early stage of the tumor. As regards therapy, pneumonectomy is recommended for stage 1 silicosis only. --Cond. from Bull. Hyg.

83 Results of Periodical Examinations of Workers in an Asbestos Factory. A. Bohme. Beitrage z. Silikose Forschung No. 11, 27-34, (1951). (In German).

Since radiological supervision and control measures were adopted in an asbestos factory in 1936, the dust hazard has been greatly reduced, as shown by comparing results of surveys in 1936, 1940, and 1949. A comparison of different working places shows that the risk is low in spinning and weaving, but high in preparation, carding and brake polishing. A table shows results for 14 cases from 1936 to 1949. Some progressed, others did not. Inquiries among former workers reveal little if any tendency to progression after the dust exposure has ceased. This is in contrast to silicosis. On the other hand a personal factor exists, as in silicosis, as a number of workers do not get asbestosis in spite of high dust exposures.

Progressive tuberculosis is rare, only two cases being found, both started in the parts of the lung least affected by asbestosis. One combination of asbestosis and carcinoma of the lung was found. The main result of this study is the demonstration that the hazard can be reduced by dust control. --Cond. from Bull. Hyg.