

blood raised the viscosity of the blood. --Condensed from Brit. J. Ind. Med

- 108 Blood and Bone Marrow Studies on 21 Workers With Silicosis. F. Tronchetti, and C. Conti. Med. d. lavoro 39; 237-244 (Aug. 1948).

Examination of blood and bone marrow of 21 silicotic workers revealed a slight normochromic or hypochromic anemia with eosinophilia in the peripheral blood; and a moderate hypoplasia of hematopoietic tissue with histiocytosis and eosinophilia in the sternal marrow. These changes are said to be due to the sclerotic effect of free silica on hematopoietic tissue.

-- Authors' English Summary

- 109 Silicosis in Workers Packing Cleansing Powder. (Accelerating Effect of Oxalic Acid?) J. Strutek. Casop. Lek. Cesk. 87, 343-346 (Mar. 26, 1948) Czechoslovakia.

The author investigated eighteen persons who worked at packaging by hand, a cleansing powder containing 96 per cent silica and four per cent oxalic acid. Masks could not be worn, as dust containing oxalic acid accumulated beneath the face piece and caused dermatitis. Ten case histories are given, together with x-ray findings, which showed the presence of silicosis up to the third degree. The time of exposure to dust ranged from nine months to eight years. The condition developed rapidly and was present in three subjects after 1 3/4 years exposure. Concentrations up to 380×10^6 particles of less than 10 micron diameter were found in the air. It is considered that oxalic acid was responsible for the unusually rapid development of silicosis, perhaps by depressing the concentration of calcium in the tissues. It also produced pallor and dryness of the respiratory mucosa, and may also have been responsible for the marked loss of weight, which is not characteristic of silicosis in the absence of tuberculosis.

-- Condensed from Bull. Hyg.

- 110 Industrial Dust Diseases. Recent Developments and Compensation Aspects. E. Mayer and I. Rappaport. Compens. Med. 1, 3-10 (Dec. 1948).

This is a general paper on dust diseases, including notes on the following new developments: tentative classification of beryllium dust poisoning as a pneumoconiosis; severe dust disease in bauxite workers; in compensation problems, more attention to disability symptoms and less complete acceptance of fibrosis as the deciding factor.

- 111 The Pathogenicity of Bagasse: II. Effect on Rabbits of Prolonged Exposure to Bagasse. B. Gerstl, M. Tager and L.W. Szczepaniak. Proc. Soc. Exper. Biol. & Med. 70, p. 697 (April, 1949).

Gerstl and associates say that various factors have been suggested as etiologic agents of bagasse disease, such as the composition of the fiber itself, fungi and micro-organisms attached to the fiber, and the high silica content. The authors describe experiments which were carried out on rabbits in order to throw more light on the etiologic factors. Bagasse, irrespective of the route of administration, produces a complex