

699 FDA Seizes Meat Seasoning.

Two seizures of a meat seasoning on charges that it contains food additives not cleared as safe were announced by the Food and Drug Administration. Seized were 153 pounds of "Hygio Seasoning No. 555-2," distributed by the First Spice Mixing Company, Inc., Long Island, New York, at dealers in St. Paul, Minnesota, and New Britain, Connecticut. FDA said the product, although labeled as a seasoning, would actually function as a preservative and a color fixative, especially for ground meat. The Agency said that the average consumer uses the color of ground meat as an index of its freshness and that use of this product would be deceptive, preventing ready detection of aging or spoiling meat. — J. Am. Med. Assn.

BOOKS, PAMPHLETS AND NOTICES

- 700 Survey of Work in Compressed Air During the Construction of the Auckland Harbour Bridge. Special Report No. 2. Issued by Medical Statistics Branch Department of Health, Wellington. Compiled by R. J. Rose. Government Printer, R. E. Owen, Wellington, New Zealand. 108 pp. (April 1962). 6s 6d. OBTAINABLE FROM: Government Publications Bookshop, corner of Lambton Quay and Bunny Street (Private Bag), Wellington, New Zealand.

A survey has been carried out to establish the incidence of decompression sickness on a caisson sinking contract involving the construction of 6 piers supporting a bridge across Auckland Harbor. In all, 10,026 compressions of company employees were carried out, and 262 bends followed. The overall rate covering all types of worker, both shift and non-shift, was 2.6 per hundred compressions. The bends incidence tended to increase with the rise in working pressures. Almost one-third of the total bends in shift workers occurred at the highest pressures over 45 psi with a bends rate of 4.6%. The greatest risk of bends being incurred attached to the afternoon and early evening shifts. The bends rate declined during the night shifts. Serious symptoms indicative of cerebral or cardio-respiratory involvement such as coma, chokes, vertigo, vomiting or paralysis, appeared in 17% of the cases treated on the site. Two out of three bends were relieved in one recompression. No relationship was demonstrated between the site of the bends and the ease with which relief was obtained. Three out of four bends required a return to full working pressure or an even higher pressure before relief was obtained. On the other hand a somewhat surprising number of bends were relieved at low pressures when working pressures had been high. Two cases of permanent disability have been reported and are described. Both these men had very short working histories, one man having worked one shift only at 20 lb. pressure.

-- Cond. from author's summary

- 701 Occupational Disease in California, 1960. State of California Department of Public Health, Bureau of Occupational Health. 35 pp. (Date not given). COPIES ARE AVAILABLE FREE TO INTERESTED PERSONS AS LONG AS THE SUPPLY LASTS FROM: California Department of Public Health, Bureau of Occupational Health, 2151 Berkeley Way, Berkeley 4, Calif.

This review summarizes 16,642 doctor's reports of occupational disease from among the nearly 5 million employees covered under the California workmen's compensation law in 1960. Most occupational disease reports fall into the traditional categories of skin conditions, respiratory conditions and systemic poisonings. Hazards most frequently implicated in these diseases are poison oak, food products and agricultural chemicals. Half the 703 systemic poisonings in 1960 were attributed to agricultural chemicals, primarily the organic phosphate pesticides. Although relatively few reports were received in 1960 concerning such classical agents as lead (28 reports), carbon monoxide (53 reports), carbon tetrachloride (37 reports), and mercury (17 reports), these reports are of significance because the principles of environmental control for all occupational disease caused by these agents have been well understood for a long time and they indicate a need for education and enforcement. Among all industry groups, agriculture had the highest rate with 16.0 occupational disease reports per 1,000