

- 872 The Polythiolactic Acids in Curative and Preventive Treatment of Chronic Lead Poisoning. V.M. Parodi. *Folia med.* 31, 164 (April, 1948) Italian.

Parodi treated three men between the ages of 37 and 63 for chronic lead poisoning. They had worked as painters and varnishers on board of ships, using paints on a lead base. Treatment was by parenteral administration of thiopan, a stable proprietary brand of various polythiolactic acids on a sulfur base. There was a pronounced increase in the amount of lead eliminated in the urine during the first days of the administration of the drug. The eliminated amounts reached their maximum after about one week, then decreased rapidly; and for two of the patients nearly normal values were obtained. Subjective manifestations improved considerably at the same time, and there was an increase in body weight, as well as an improvement of the blood picture and of the general condition. A definite improvement resulted likewise in nine electric welders who presented manifestations of preplumbism and to whom the same drug was administered. Consequently, this preparation is indicated also for preventive treatment.

-- J. Ind. Hyg. & Tox.

- 873 Symptomatology and Clinical Importance of Osteomyoarthralgic Forms of Calsson Disease. V.M. Parodi. *Med. d. lavoro* 39, 73 (March 1948).

Parodi observed an osteomyoarthralgic form of calsson disease in five workmen between the ages of 21 and 48. A particular sensitiveness of bone was demonstrated in all these patients; it was localized in the upper epiphysis of the tibia in four, in the tibial diaphysis in one, in the distal epiphysis of the humerus in one. Attention is called to the importance of this symptom, which may be considered as being connected with areas of aseptic necrosis of bone, which in the late stage of the disease can be demonstrated on roentgenologic examination. -- J. Ind. Hyg. & Tox.

- 874 Vitamin C, Antidote of the Aromatic Hydrocarbons. E. Merlevede. *Arch. Belges. Med. Sociale, Hyg. Med. du Travail et Med. Legale.* 6, 367-373 (Nov. 1948) French.

Workers exposed to aromatic compounds were found to have very small amounts, if any, ascorbic acid in the urine. If 50 mg. ascorbic acid daily was given the workers, ascorbic acid was found in the urine if no accident occurred. In case of an accident ascorbic acid was absent from the urine and the blood levels were diminished. A protective daily dose of 100 mg. was recommended for safety. In a series of experiments on guinea pigs the author found that ascorbic acid increased the resistance to intoxication by anilin and nitrochlorobenzene, and that ascorbic acid must be given at least several hours before the anilin to ensure protective action. The following conclusions are reached: the aromatic nitro-amino-, and chlor- compounds form methemoglobin through the intermediate phenylhydroxylamine, which is formed by reduction from nitrobenzene and by oxidation from anilin, through the oxidizing and reducing power of the blood. Ascorbic acid acts as a powerful reducing agent and transforms methemoglobin into oxyhemoglobin.

-- Condensed from Bull. Hyg.