

or entirely absent. These results may have value in their bearing on disease incurred in the therapeutic administration of aluminum powder in the treatment of silicosis. The aluminum powder probably does not reach as deep levels of the lungs as does silica. It is suggested that unequal distribution of the powder could be prevented if the lungs of the workmen were dilated with an aerosol before the administration of the aluminum. It is suggested that the potential benefits of pneumo-dilating therapy after the working period in dusty conditions might be investigated in field studies under competent control.

-- Bull. Hyg.

Industrial Health Hazards and Their Effects

- 901 Parathion a Toxic Insecticide, Can Be Used With Precautions. Anon. Ind. Hyg. Newsletter 2, p. 3 (Aug. 1949).

A warning has been sent to State and local industrial hygiene officials by Public Health Service, calling attention to the dangers of parathion, one of the new insecticidal chemicals. Chemically, parathion is O,O-diethyl O-p-nitrophenyl thiophosphate. It can be used with safety only when all precautions are strictly observed. A leading manufacturer has produced two million pounds without employee illness. Inhalation and skin contact must be avoided. One of the first symptoms is pulmonary edema. That condition should be carefully watched for, and an oxygen tent and atropine should be used when it is found.

- 902 Pathology of Carbon Disulfide: Research on Cholinesterase Activity and on Vitamin B₁ Content of Blood. G. Graziani and L. Pecora. Folia med. 31, 129 (April 1948) Italian.

Graziani and Pecora studied seventeen workmen, between the ages of 22 and 58, who worked in an olive oil distillery where carbon disulfide was used for the extraction of the oil. The concentration of the carbon disulfide in the air of the workrooms varied from 0.006 to 0.012 parts per thousand. This concentration is much inferior to that which by all the investigators has been considered as the minimum limit of safety. In addition to clinical examination, determinations of the cholinesterase activity of the serum and of the thiamine content of the blood were carried out for all the workmen studied. Hemochromocytometry was done likewise, and electrocardiograms were taken. Results showed an increase of cholinesterase activity, while the thiamine content was reduced considerably. Hypoglobulia and hypochromia were present in eight patients. In eleven workmen mild bradycardia of sinusal origin was observed; and in seven workmen the electrocardiogram showed a triphasic rapid wave; these observations were interpreted as symptoms of neurovegetative dystonia.

-- J. Ind. Hyg. & Tox.