

grains may liberate a substance which evokes epithelioid granulomas. An etiological relationship between pine pollen and sarcoidosis remains unestablished as disseminated granulomas were not produced.

-- J. Am. Med. Assn. References & Review

- 998 Epidemic Nosebleeds in Apple Packers. G.E. Quinby.
J. Am. Med. Assn. 197, 165-168 (July 18, 1966).

A new disease of apple packers appeared in 1964 in Washington. Blood in nasal discharges ran from mild staining to dripping hemorrhage. The disease followed chemical changes in the fat cation of two brands of blue-dyed apple-packing trays made from salvaged newspaper. A third tray made of plastic and a fourth of virgin wood pulp produced no such signs of nasal irritation. Attack rates of hemoglobin in nasal discharges in the control general population was about 25% during the same six-week period. All packers dripped blood from the nose in some plants. Nosebleeds decreased where newsprint trays were stopped. Bleeding began in packers switched late in the season from nonirritating to newsprint trays.

-- Author's abstr.

- 999 Right Ventricular Hypertrophy in Bituminous Coal Miners in West Virginia. W.A. Laqueur and H.A. Wells, Jr. Ann. Mtg. Abstr. Intern. Acad. Pathol. Cleveland, March 5, 1966.
Lab. Invest. 15, 1127 (June, 1966).

As part of a comprehensive study of the pathology of coal workers' pneumoconiosis in Appalachian coal miners, hearts from 200 consecutive autopsies performed by the authors were dissected after a method based on the unrolling technique of Batson. (The method is briefly described in the complete paper.) Of the hearts, 150 were from bituminous coal miners, 25 were from nonminers, and 25 were from females. The ratio of right ventricular to left ventricular mass was determined in each case. Analysis of data shows that the nonminers and females dying without heart disease had total heart weights that were consistent with the normals recorded in the literature, allowing for differences in technique. The total heart weights from coal miners varied significantly from the normal, as did the ratio of right to left ventricular weight. Definite right ventricular hypertrophy (right to left ratios less than 1.20) was present in 38% of miners and in 4% of the control group. Twenty-six per cent of the miners died with clinically diagnosed right heart failure (right to left ratios averaged 1.1), compared to 4% of nonminers and females. The right to left ventricular ratios were compared with the severity of coal workers' pneumoconiosis as judged by x-rays and autopsy examination, and a positive correlation was demonstrated. The influence of left ventricular hypertrophy upon right to left ventricular ratio is discussed. Complete work records allowed plotting of estimated exposure against lung disease and lung disease versus right ventricular hypertrophy. An attempt is made to compare the results of similar studies in England and Wales.

- 1000 Pneumoconiosis Study of Pennsylvania Anthracite Miners. W.W. McBride, et al.
J. Occ. Med. 8, 365-376 (July, 1966).

Chest roentgenograms, three-second vital-capacity determinations, and occupational and personal histories were obtained from 1,858 anthracite miners in Pennsylvania. Of the 1,858 working and retired miners studied, 759 (41%) showed roentgen evidence of pneumoconiosis. Of the working men in the present study, 30% showed evidence of the disease. This figure is higher than the 11% and 25% found in working bituminous coal miners of central and western Pennsylvania. The only previous study of Pennsylvania anthracite miners, reported in 1934, showed a pneumoconiosis prevalence of 23%. Because of conditions in the industry, the group studied was much older than the general working population and since there is a direct relationship between years of exposure and roentgenographic evidence of dust deposition in the lungs, the authors' findings should not necessarily be interpreted as demonstrating that work in anthracite coal mining has become more hazardous since 1934.

-- Authors' summary

- 1001 Acid-Base Equilibrium in Pulmonary Silicosis. F. Dotta and A. Bianchi.
Securitas 50, 61-65 (Oct. 1965). Italian.

The authors describe the modifications of the acid-base equilibrium in 50 cases of pulmonary silicosis. They emphasize the existence of a condition of hypocapnia and respiratory alkalosis in silicosis cases with a functional pattern of restrictive-type ventilatory insufficiency. A condition of hypercapnia and respiratory acidosis is frequently encountered in cases of silicosis with a functional pattern of obstructive-type ventilatory insufficiency. Five references are given.

-- Public Health Eng. Abstr.

IN RE: ABRAMS November 1992

03122282