

disabling and fatal pneumoconiosis. Marked changes in the lungs are, however, seldom seen in grinders who have less than 20 years exposure. The results of three autopsies and some of the findings in other workmen are given, together with the results of some experiments on animals. The radiological and histological findings are similar to those found in South Wales coal workers.

-- Authors' Summary

- 869 Three Cases of Mercurial Tremor Treated with Sodium Thiomalate.
R. Worms, Weill-Beulot and M. Tubiana. Bull. Soc. med. Hop. Paris. 64,
478 (1948) French.

The three patients described were all electricians who made mercury interruptors. Their histories and symptoms were similar. The authors consider that there were three conditions in these cases: Mercurial tremor, a cerebellar syndrome, and an extrapyramidal syndrome (Parkinsonian tremor), all of which might be covered by the term, "mercurial encephalopathy." The mercury is oxidized when in contact with the air and can enter the body either through the lungs or through the digestive system. Symptoms are likely to occur years after ingestion. Sodium thiomalate is recommended as a treatment rather than BAL because of the much higher toxicity of the latter. One patient improved greatly after treatment with atropine.

-- Brit. J. Ind. Med.

- 870 Chronic Disease as an Industrial Hygiene Problem. C.D. Selby.
Am. J. Public Health 39, 598-601 (May, 1949).

This paper reports briefly on the use of vital statistics in industrial health administration in practice, especially in preventive medicine as a branch of industrial medicine. Industrial vital statistics should include death rates and non-occupational disability rates of the plant population, as well as the usual information on occupational injuries and diseases. The author's company (General Motors) has followed that plan for several years. When disabilities from a particular disease, or group of diseases, are high special efforts are made to assist employees in the prevention and control of those diseases. In the past year, diseases of the organs of movement--rheumatism, myalgia, arthritis, and neuritis were especially prevalent among men, and diseases of the nervous system among women. These diseases should be given special consideration in the industrial medical program.

- 871 The Functions of Industrial Hygiene and Their Relationship to Industrial Dentistry. C.O. Sappington. Ind. Med. and Surg. 18, 347-349 (Aug. 1949)

The author believes that, "the final justification for industrial dentistry is to be found in checking losses (of time and money) due to non-occupational disease, because of the fact that the greatest losses in industry are due to non-occupational diseases." The outline of Schour and Sarnat on "Oral Manifestations of Occupational Diseases According to the Etiologic Agent" is reproduced. However there is little evidence that this material has been applied to the practice of industrial dentistry. An outline used by Loskot for examinations in industrial dentistry is endorsed.