

the lungs together with the tubercular lesions, and the author hypothesized that the chemical irritant had reactivated a latent tuberculosis. This might be a good warning to chemists and those who work with irritant substances to have yearly roentgen examinations of the chest.

- 65 INJURIES TO HEALTH CAUSED BY ALUMINUM AND PARTICULARLY THE EFFECT OF ALUMINUM DUST ON THE LUNGS. M. Doese. Arch. Gowerbepath. u. Gowerbehg. 2, 501-30 (1938). (German).

In an investigation to decide whether aluminum dust caused a characteristic disease of the lungs, data was collected from examinations of 86 aluminum smelter workers. It was found that silicosis did not occur among the men, which agreed with the British investigations. It was found, however, that there was damage to the upper respiratory tract in the form of catarrh, irritation or atrophy of the nasal mucus membrane and perforation of the septum. Whether these were due to the aluminum specifically or to a general effect of dust was not concluded because of the small number examined. The comparative harmlessness of aluminum in the stages of production is in marked contrast to the dangers of spraying with aluminum paint, as in the latter case it seems there is a noticeable effect on the lungs which is regarded as specific.

- 66 THALLIUM POISONING. F. Kunkle. Chem. Ztg. 62, 49-51 (1938). (German). The author gives a short history of thallium poisoning and describes the detection and determination of the substance in parts of the body at autopsy. He reports on 2 cases of death from thallium which he had examined.

- 67 FLUORINE POISONING. J. Am. Med. Assoc. (Queries and minor notes) 111, 273 (1938); Pulmonary edema is the outstanding characteristic of acute fluorine poisoning and as little as 0.2 mg. per kilogram of body weight may cause trouble when inhaled. In chronic cases overgrowth of bone, calcification of ligaments and bone fragility are common, but tend to disappear when exposure is stopped. In acute cases, oxygen inhalation, bronchial sedatives and antispasmodics, and intravenous calcium gluconate are suggested. Ten references are cited.

- 68 A PORTABLE INSTRUMENT FOR THE ANALYSIS OF HYDROCYANIC ACID GAS-AIR MIXTURES. R.J. Wilmet and T.N. Gautier. J. Agr. Research 56, 283-90 (1938). An instrument is described which analyzes hydrogen cyanide gas-air mixtures by physical apparatus. The sample is drawn, by means of a small motor driven pump contained in the instrument, over a hot platinum filament. The change in resistance of the filament is then measured by means of a wheatstone bridge and is translated into percentage of hydrogen cyanide by volume. It is accurate to within 0.02 per cent.

- 69 PRINTERS' SPRAY AND METHYL ALCOHOL. J. Am. Med. Assoc. (Queries and minor notes) 111, 85 (1938).

A spray used widely in printing contains methyl alcohol, gum arabic and gum tragacanth. One printer is known to have developed asthma which was traced to the gum arabic and which was overcome by substituting starch. Most of the complaints concerned not the spray but the dust left when the alcohol evaporates. Exhaust ventilation may be suggested and methyl alcohol should not be used.

- 70 EFFECT OF SULFUR CHLORIDES ON EYES. J. Am. Med. Assoc. (Queries and minor notes) 111, 1492 (1938).

Sulfur chloride is thought to be non-toxic by Hamilton and Lehmann. Since it is frequently used along with carbon disulfide, any injury is thought to be caused by the latter substance. Kober and Hayhurst consider the decomposition products to be harmful and Adler-Horzmars has reported general poisoning by sulfur-monochloride in the absence of carbon disulfide. Injury to the eye would probably be accompanied by other, more characteristic, injuries.