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REFERENCES TO RECENT LITERATURE ON INDUSTRIAL DISEASES

(A) News Items

165 OCCUPATION AND HEALTH, Supplement. International Labor Office, Geneva, 96 pp., (September, 1938). Obtainable from International Labor Office, 734 Jackson Place, Washington, D.C. Price $5.00 per 500 pages. Supplements to the two volumes "Occupation and Health" are issued biannually. The present work, the second supplement of 1938, contains eleven brochures on various subjects. Abstracts of nine of the important papers are included in this Bulletin.

166 INCREASE IN NUMBER OF OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE CLAIMS IN OHIO DURING 1937. Anonymous. Ohio State Med. Journal, 35, 329, (March, 1939). The number of claims increased from 1,388 in 1936 to 1,694 in 1937. As usual, skin diseases were responsible for a large percentage of the claims filed. There was an increase of 95 claims for lead poisoning, largely from 3 plants manufacturing automobile bodies, where ground lead was used to fill cracks and seams in the bodies. Six claims for silicosis (made compensable on July 31, 1937) were considered as within the provisions of the law; an unstated number were classed as non-compensable for various reasons.

(B) Papers on Dust, Dust Diseases and General Industrial Hygiene.

167 OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE SYMPOSIUM. Northwestern University Medical School, Department of Industrial Medicine, Chicago, Ill., September 26-27, 1938. Proceedings published January, 1939, Price $3.00. The following items are abstracts of the papers presented at the symposium which are published in one volume obtainable from the above address:

THE PRESENT STATUS OF INDUSTRIAL MEDICAL EDUCATION. Carl M. Peterson. The number of industrial physicians has almost doubled in the past 10 years and the number of graduates coming in contact with industrial phases of medicine is increasing annually. In reviewing the present status of occupational disease education in the medical schools, it is noted that this type of instruction is on the increase.

THE SCOPE OF THE OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE RESEARCH PROBLEM. Philip Drinker. Research is needed as a guide towards regularly obtaining better statistics and better reporting of industrial disabilities of all kinds. Industrial processes are not eliminated because a process is in some way harmful to the workmen; prevention, based on research, must be practiced, and this prevention always takes a little time to catch up with toxicology.

207 FUNGUS INFECTION OF LUNGS SIMULATES TUBERCULOSIS CLOSELY. Adelaide R. Smith. Industrial Bulletin, 18, 15-6, (January, 1939).
The molds, including fungi and yeasts, are simple filamentous plants of simple structure, which, having no chlorophyl, cannot synthesize food from carbon dioxide, must obtain it from other organisms, living or dead. They have wide distribution and are found largely in decayed or slightly decayed vegetable matter and in the dust from such material; certain susceptible individuals working in these dusts may become infected with them in various parts of the body. A description is given of a few cases of proved pulmonary infection from fungus, which in this form produces changes much the same as those in tuberculosis, detectable only by cultural methods. The inference is drawn that infections of this type may be much more common than is generally suspected.

208 REPORT OF THE USE OF BIOPHOTOMETER AND VITAMIN A THERAPY IN INDUSTRY. O.H. Schettler, R.F. Bisbee and B.H. Goodenough. Jounal Industrial Hygiene & Toxicology, 21, 53-5, (February, 1939).
For many years workers matching whiteness of porcelain were unable to do so with reasonable accuracy. After many experiments to improve results had failed it was found possible by the use of a biophotometer to measure the patient's ability to see light and his response to dark adaptation. Therapy with vitamin A, known to be essential for good vision, was begun and the result has been a decrease of 75 per cent in number of rejections of matched white porcelain over a period of a few months.

209 THE FEET OF THE INDUSTRIAL WORKER. SYMPOSIUM. E.P. Cathcart, C. Lambrinudi, W.S. Creer, W. Blood and H. Bradley. Lancet, pp. 1480-6, (Dec.24,1938) (British)
Flat-foot is one of the troubles that most concern industrial workers. Footwear worn at work is much more important than that worn in leisure hours. Some of the defects of modern shoes are pointed out by the authors and remedies to correct them are suggested. It is true that the shoe manufacturers are becoming more alert to the problem and are beginning to give more cooperation to industrial medical officers.

210 OCCUPATIONAL CANCER. L. Telcky. Acta d. intern. Ver.f.Krebs., 3, 253-75, (1938) (German).
The author discusses the main industries in which lung cancer is found or expected. The silicosis literature points to the fact that lung cancer is seldom found among silicotics. The high incidence of lung cancer among Schneeberg miners (radioactive mines) is no basis for assuming that other miners are similarly endangered. Among metal grinders carcinoma is two and one half times as great as in the general population. Exposure to asbestos, perhaps because it irritates the lungs, may be conducive to lung cancer -- at least the incidence is fairly high. Exposure to chromate dust seems to favor lung cancer as well as cancer in other organs. There are isolated cases of lung cancer among generator workers, among workers exposed to coal dust, tar and tar distillates, nickel workers, but the numbers are not large. Exposure to radium emanations and radioactive substances is very dangerous.

211 DOES WORK WITH COMPRESSED AIR TOOLS RESULT IN ENDANGITIS OBLITERANS? A. Fikentscher. Arch.f.Gewerbepath. u. Gewerbehyg., 9, 65-79 (1938) (German.)
The study described covered 250 workers in the iron industry who had used pneumatic tools from 2 to 40 years. The chief signs and symptoms of endangitis obliterans (threatened or actual gangrene, absent pulses, intermittent claudication, trophic disturbances, alarming pains, pigmentation of limbs) could not be demonstrated in any of the subjects. The circulatory disturbances so often observed in workers with compressed air rivetors, hammers, etc., are therefore of other origin than an endangitis obliterans.