

- 245 Extensive Dermatitis due to Warfarin Sodium (Coumatin). C. W. Adams and B. J. Pass. *Circulation* 22, 917 (1960).

This report describes a case of severe dermatitis, involving the skin and mucous membranes which followed the use of Warfarin sodium (Coumatin). The lesions disappeared with corticosteroid therapy but recurred upon challenge with Warfarin sodium. Upon elimination of this drug, the skin and oral lesions disappeared. The patient had no allergic manifestations following the administration of dihydrocoumatin. -- *Can. Med. Assn. J. Abstr.*

- 246 An Unusual Occurrence of Sporotrichosis. H. D. Garrett and J. D. Robbins. *Arch. Dermatol.* 82, 570 (Oct. 1960).

Several cases of occupational sporotrichosis occurred in a group of Mexicans from injuries received while unpacking pottery. The pottery had been packed in a native grass container with *Sporotrichum schenckii*. -- *J. Occ. Med. Abstr.*

CHEMICAL HAZARDS

- 247 Poisoning by Nitrous Gases. A. Propst. *Wien. med. Wochenschr.* 116, 591-596 (July 9, 1960). German.

Poisoning by oxides of nitrogen— NO_2 , N_2O_4 , NO and N_2O_3 —and also by the formation of nitrous and nitric acids may be a risk to workers in many industries. Numerous fatalities in industrial workers have been reported in the literature. Opinions on the toxicology of these substances are not in entire accord. Some observers consider that the chief effect is on the pulmonary system through the local formation of nitric acid which causes pulmonary edema, but others take the view that a general systemic poisoning is brought about by the formation of nitrite. This paper contains a detailed report of a man aged 45 years who was engaged at a steel works in cleaning out a drainage pit which contained some steel plate, with nitric acid and additions of salt and sulfuric acid. After the end of his shift he was taken ill with giddiness and some difficulty of breathing and cough. His condition deteriorated rapidly and he died after 3 days from pulmonary edema. There is a full account of the post-mortem findings, including photographs of the microscopic appearances of the lung and the results of spectrophotometric examination of blood taken from the heart. The chief toxic changes were found to be those of local pulmonary irritation caused by the formation of nitric acid. Evidence of systemic poisoning, however, was found in the general dilatation of blood vessels, blood stasis and fatty changes in the liver which resulted from the formation of methemoglobin, nitrogen oxide hemoglobin and nitrite demonstrated by spectrophotometry. -- *Bull. Hyg.*

- 248 Bone-Marrow Activity and Erythrocyte Destruction in Chronic Cadmium Poisoning. Studies with Fe-59 on Rabbits. M. Berlin and L. Friberg. *Arch. Environmental Health* 1, 478-486 (Dec. 1960).

This investigation showed that accelerated destruction of the erythrocytes and deficiency of iron in the bone-marrow contribute to the anemia of cadmium poisoning in addition to the earlier demonstrated increase in the volume of blood plasma. No evidence was found for diminished bone-marrow activity with respect to erythropoiesis. Some of the observations suggested increased bone-marrow activity. The reduced life span of the erythrocytes was not in essential degree attributable to toxic influence on erythropoiesis. The authors' studies did not elucidate whether the iron deficiency in the bone-marrow is caused by increased utilization of iron as a result of the intensified erythrocyte destruction and consequent loss of iron or by disturbance of the mechanism for transportation of iron. It was demonstrated, however, that such disturbance in iron transportation was not situated between the blood and the bone marrow. -- Authors' conclusions