915 Benign Pneumoconiosis in a Tin Oxide Recovery Plant. H.C. Cutter, W.W. Faller, J.B. Stocklen and W.L. Wilson. J. Ind. Hyg. & Tox. 31, 139-141 (May, 1949).

Two case reports of men exposed to finely divided tin oxide are presented. Both have roentgenograms which appear to be typical of benign pneumoconiosis due to tin oxide. A summary of the industrial hygiene engineering study of the tin recovery process is given. -- Authors' Summary

916 Acute Psychosis from Carbon Disulfide in a Vulcanizer of Rubber. E.C. Vigliani and C. Angeleri. Med. d. lavoro. 39, 269-275 (Sept.-Oct. 1939) Italian.

A woman, aged 32, with no previous family history of mental illness, was employed in vulcanizing small rubber balloons in a mixture of equal parts of benzene and carbon disulfide with 2-3% of sulfur chloride for an indefinite period. For about one and a half months, the work was done at home, without adequate protection from fumes. At the end of that time the vessel containing the vulcanizing solution was upset and the contents spilled. The worker soon began to suffer from headache and pains in the lower limbs and was excited and irritable but continued at work. In a few days the mental symptoms became worse and she was admitted to a hospital. Clinical examinations showed anemia and albuminuria. The mental symptoms grew more severe and nine applications of electric-shock therapy were used. Her mental condition was restored to normal. All the circumstances of the case indicate that the correct diagnosis was psychosis due to poisoning by carbon disulfide, rather than a maniacal depressive state of constitutional origin. -- Condensed from Bull. Hyg.

917 Mercury Exposure in the Fur-Felt Hat Industry. Adelaide R. Smith, L. Goldwater, W.J. Burke and S. Moskowitz. Monthly Rev. (New York State Dept. of Labor) 28, 17-19 (May, 1949) and 28, 21-24 (June, 1949).

This is the report of a clinical and laboratory study of 213 men exposed to mercury vapor in the "back-shop" of a hat factory. Mercury vapor concentrations in the air of the work-place ranged up to 0.81 mg. of mercury per cubic meter of air. Evidence of chronic mercurialism was shown by 39.9% of men examined. The clinical study brought out the following less frequently stressed points of interest in connection with high mercury exposure and chronic mercurialism: (1) Frequency and importance of skin lesions; (2) Pallor without anemia as a common finding; (3) Weight loss as a common complaint; (4) Frequency of conjunctivitis as well as pharyngitis and gingivitis; (5) Suggestive evidence of an effect upon the thyroid as shown by enlargement of the gland in 15% of those examined; (6) Suggestive evidence of a pressor effect on the cardio-vascular system shown by a tendency toward an increase in pulse rates and blood pressure, especially diastolic. Significant laboratory findings were the following: (1) Evidence of kidney irritation in approximately one-third of all men examined, (2) Excretion of mercury in the urine in all men examined without relation to the presence of chronic mercurialism; (3) No evidence of disturbance of calcium metabolism in 43 cases, in which estimations of blood calcium, phosphatase and phosphorous were made; (4) Hypercholesteremia in 28% of 46 cases examined; (5) No evidence of anemia, leukocytosis or changes in the differential blood picture [illegible] lymphocytosis. (6) Positive blood changes