

- 224 Alcoholism. Anon. Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, New York. 8 pp. (1959).

Alcoholism, a serious health problem, is a condition that is characterized by uncontrollable or compulsive drinking. Until very recently it was common to think of alcoholics as people to be shunned, reproached, or ridiculed. They were considered by many to be immoral, weak-willed, or obstinate. But nowadays physicians and others who have made a study of alcoholism approach the problem differently. They realize that there is no point in scolding, shaming, or urging the use of will power alone because they know that once an alcoholic has taken a drink, he is literally unable to control his drinking even though he may realize that he is harming his health, endangering his job, and hurting people closest to him. Some business and industrial concerns are aware of the necessity for the study and control of the alcoholism problem, and have encouraged employees who need it to seek help. These firms which have maintained alcoholism programs for reasonable lengths of time agree that such programs are well worth the effort. In the absence of alcoholism programs, co-workers and supervisors often cover up for the alcoholic in a misguided attempt to help. Moreover, fear of detection and possible dismissal keep many alcoholic employees from doing anything about their problem early when there is the best chance for recovery. Companies with alcoholism programs report that the programs more than pay for themselves in: (1) increased savings in terms of higher productivity, less waste, absenteeism, and fewer accidents, and (2) the creation of better employer-employee relationships which, in turn, lead to improved morale and greater efficiency.

- 225 Industrial Radiography. Anon. Occ. Health Bull. New Jersey Dept. of Health, Bureau of Adult and Occ. Health 5, No. 7, 8 pp. (No date given).

Industrial radiography is fast becoming the most important means of non-destructive testing and inspection of materials for the detection of flaws in castings, forgings and welds, as compared to the fluorescent and dye penetrant or the magnetic and ultrasonic inspection methods. There are numerous reasons for this. The 2 most important are the lower cost and the fact that a radiograph not only indicates a flaw but also shows the actual nature of the imperfection. However, the uses of radiation for radiography make up only a small percentage of all the uses of radiation in industry, but probably warrant closer control and more stringent steps for safeguarding personnel than do the other uses. There are many reasons for this, some of the most important being the large quantities used, high workloads, unskilled labor which is completely unfamiliar with radiation, and the wide variation in jobs in the case of open radiography. This, however, does not offer an excuse for high exposures. Those days are over—or should be. Today, there are no martyrs to the cause of developing a new and unknown field of radiation.

- 226 Health Statistics from the U.S. National Health Survey. Series B—No. 25. Hernias Reported in Interviews, United States, July 1957 - June 1959. U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Public Health Service, PHS Publication No. 584-D25. 22 pp. (Dec. 1960). For sale by Supt. of Documents, U. S. Gov't. Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C. 25 cents.

This report contains estimates of the number of persons with hernias and the disability resulting from this condition. It should be noted that the estimate of the national prevalence of hernias shown in this report, 14.7 cases per 1,000 population, is based on cases reported in household interviews. Thus, it includes only cases which the respondents are aware of, and which have given them some concern. In general, these are likely to be cases in which the hernia is visible, has caused discomfort, or has been detected by a physician on physical examination. No doubt a higher prevalence rate would be obtained if physical examinations for hernia were carried out on a representative sample of the national population. No effort was made in determining the specific type of hernia, since it was believed that most respondents would not be able to provide such information. Hence, in this report all forms of hernia are grouped together.