

received both clinical and basic science training, they could more effectively teach basic sci to medical students without attempting to make basic scientists out of them. Clinical depart with their innate rivalry would be abolished. If clinical entities were taught, rather than the partmental aspects of a disease, the student would get a much firmer grasp of the subject. R. Rogers* after a lifetime of teaching said, "It seems to me that anything that can be taught another is relatively inconsequential, and has little or no significant influence on behaviour.

* On becoming a person: a therapist's view of psychotherapy. Houghton Mifflin Company, B. 1961, p. 276.

- 434 Airborne Bacterial Contamination. H.R. Bernard, et al. Arch. Surg. 91, 530 (1965).

Shower bathing increases the number of bacteria shed from the skin of both men and women. increase is most pronounced between ten and 15 minutes after showering and usually ceases one to two hours. This increase is not lessened by the use of hexachlorophene soap. Bacter arising from the nasopharynx constitute a small fraction of the total shed into the environmer The increase in bacterial shedding caused by shower bathing may be abolished by the applica of 70% ethyl alcohol or lanolin to the skin or by clothing the subject in a one-piece suit of tigh woven fabric. Higher concentrations of bacteria are found near the perineum and on the face With exercise of the lower extremities, more bacteria are liberated. Human beings are the pal source of the bacteria found in well-cleaned and ventilated operating rooms. With the inc ing number of operations, attention to the showering and clothing of personnel becomes more portant because bacterial infection may cause catastrophic failure. -- Can. Med. Assn. J. Abi

- 435 The Pre-employment Physical Examination. Recent Experience at Massachusetts Institute o Technology. M.H. Rodman. J. Occ. Med. 7, 608-611 (Dec. 1965).

The pre-employment health surveys conducted at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in recent two-year period were found to serve little purpose in young people, particularly in wo: under 30 years of age. These young women, among whom the turnover rate approximates 50' per year, were also found to use the clinic facilities infrequently. On the basis of these findi the current practice does not include a pre-employment physical examination for women unde who are not to be employed in potentially hazardous occupations. Screening laboratory tests a chest x-ray continue to be performed in all cases. After one year of employment, a physic examination is offered on a voluntary basis.

-- Author's summar

Editorial Comment: Under the caption "The Iconoclast" (page 639) a portion of the editorial comment in the J. Occ. Med. on the above paper reads as follows: "The results of his studies have led Rodman to discontinue pre-employment examinations of young women applicants, exc for those applying for certain critical occupations. His conclusion applies specifically to his situation, in which the crucial factor is a high rate of turnover. Extrapolating to a broader g: alization could be hazardous. At all times J. Occ. Med. stands willing to publish concepts con to current beliefs provided such concepts are backed up by intelligence and presented with per suasiveness. J. Occ. Med. will welcome expressions of contrary opinions to keep the icon fi being totally shattered."

- 436 Medical Aspects of Invalidity Retirement Programs in Europe. II. L. Price. J. Occ. Med. 7, 630-635 (Dec. 1965).

The medical aspects of government disability programs have their basis in principles commor Europe and the United States. However, methods and details of operation vary considerably in different programs both in this country and abroad. Physicians play a uniformly important ro in Europe in disability operations, inasmuch as medical care is a government function related the social insurance system. In the United Kingdom, medical care and social insurance are h integrated into a single national system. Germany, the first country to institute health insura on a national basis, has a profusion of fragmented programs in medical care and social health insurance, with limited controls.

-- Author's summary

- 437 Psychiatric and Psychological Problems in Commercial Aviation. C. Blanc, E. Lafontaine, and R. Laplane. Aerospace Med. 37, 70-73 (Jan. 1966).

The frequency of neurotic depressive reactions and other neuroses (65%) was a rather striking finding in the study of 400 Air France employees of whom 148 were flying personnel. Fifty pe cent of the personnel showed conflicts having no direct relationship to their professional activi The importance of neuropsychiatric examinations as a part of the pre-employment evaluation i stressed.

-- Authors' abst.

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