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INDUSTRIAL HEALTH NEWS

LITERATURE ABSTRACTS

MEDICAL

ENGINEERING

CHEMICAL

TOXICOLOGICAL

LEGAL . . . decisions and trends

DECENNIAL INDEX - 1945-54

INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE FOUNDATION

MELLON INSTITUTE

4400 FIFTH AVENUE -- PITTSBURGH 13, PA.

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-- Authors' summary

- 72 Asthma and Silicosis. Queries and Minor Notes, *J. Am. Med. Assn.* 153, 1327 (Dec. 5, 1953).

Asthma occurring for the first time in a 52-year-old person can be aggravated by silicosis. The type of dyspnea caused primarily by silicosis is due to damage of the lung parenchyma and to emphysema. In some persons with silicosis, bronchospasm is induced secondarily. It should also be remembered that a 52-year-old man may have allergic infections or cardiac asthma for the first time. If the patient in question has true asthmatic episodes (relieved by epinephrine or aminophylline), a search for other causative factors should be made by a series of observations such as examination of the sputum for eosinophils and neutrophils, skin tests, and examination for hypertensive, coronary, or syphilitic heart disease.

- 73 Asbestosis Bodies and Pseudo-Asbestosis Bodies. J. Ruttner. *Schweiz. Z. Allgem. Pathol. u. Bakteriolog.* 15, 628-631 (1952). German.

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-- Bull. Hyg.

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- 101 Occupational Skin Disease. Public Health Service Publ. No. 306. U. S. Dept. of Health, Education, and Welfare, and Controlling Chemical Hazards, Series No. 10. U. S. Dept. Labor, Bureau of Labor Standards. 15 pp. (1953). For sale by Supt. of Documents, U. S. Govt. Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. 10 cents.

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Two cases are reported of workers employed in a pharmacological laboratory who experienced skin trouble when they manipulated pancreas preparations. Erosion of the skin with bleeding is a feature of this form of dermatitis. Similarly to papaya latex and pineapple juice, enzymes from pancreas exert a solvent action on the skin.

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In urinary sediment of two asbestos workers asbestos fibers were seen; the same finding was detected in urine of two female patients suffering from asbestosis, who had left their work seven years before.

-- Biol. Absts.

PHYSICAL ASPECTS OF THE ENVIRONMENT

- 906 Some Practical Aspects of Industrial Noise Measurement. L. J. Proulx. *Arch. Ind. Hyg. & Occ. Med.* 9, 496-502 (June 1954).

Some of the instrumentation problems faced by an engineer who must evaluate industrial noise environments are discussed. An array of equipment which includes a sound level meter, octave band analyzer, tape recorder, dynamic microphone, audio oscillator, vacuum tube voltmeter, high-fidelity crystal headphones, cathode ray oscilloscope, and a good quality loudspeaker is described. The use of the tape recorder and oscilloscope for measuring impact noises is given particular attention. Various calibration checks are described.

- 907 The Locus of Short Duration Auditory Fatigue or "Adaptation." J. D. Harris and Anita L. Rawnsley. *J. Exptl. Psychol.* 46, 457-461 (1953).

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- 21 Distribution of Mineral Particles and Fibers in the Lung after Exposure to Asbestos Dust. J. F. Knox and J. Beattie. Arch. Ind. Hyg. & Occ. Med. 10, 30-36 (July 1954).

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It is considered that the mechanism which is concerned with the production of human asbestosis is not the same as that which is responsible for the production of asbestotic changes in experimental animals exposed to high concentrations of asbestos dust. The appearance of such changes seems to be related to the breakdown of asbestosis bodies which may liberate some fibrogenic agent.

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- 197 Physicochemical Studies on Dusts. 8. Some Sorption Properties of Siliceous Dusts. J. G. Gibb and P. D. Ritchie. *J. Appl. Chem.* 4, 483-487 (Sept. 1954).

Rock crystal, Lochaline sand, and vitreous silica (Vitreosil) dusts all show reduced affinity for a dyestuff cation on removal of the disturbed outer layer from the particle surfaces. This layer of amorphous silica is therefore more reactive than the underlying core in sorption processes, just as in solution processes. In the case of vitreous silica, there is probably a physical difference between the outer amorphous layer and the nominally amorphous core, such as a more open structure. Heat treatment and repeated acid extraction have the same effect in both sorption and solution experiments. Alteration of the surface is probably responsible in both cases. -- Cond. from authors' conclusions

- 198 The Effect of Quartz Dust and Aluminum Phosphate on Certain Enzymes. B. Helferich and Erika Schmitz. *Beitr. Silikose-Forsch.* No. 24, 1-20 (1953). German.

This paper describes initial results on the inhibition of enzyme reactions by quartz dusts. It was found that potato phosphatase was adsorbed on quartz dust to an extent depending on the specific surface of the quartz, but that in the adsorbed state the enzyme was still nearly 100% active. Aluminum phosphate and aluminum silicate also adsorbed the enzyme. A search for phosphatase in a fresh sample of silicotic lung tissue gave negative results. The work will be continued with other enzymes. -- Cond. from Bull. Hyg.

- 199 Early Diagnosis of Asbestosis by Enlarged Radiographs. J. Krausler and R. Seyss. *Z. Unfallmed. u. Berufskrankh.* 47, 59-64 (Mar. 15, 1954). German.

After a brief description of asbestosis and the changes in the lung tissue in the early stages, the authors describe a radiographic technique with a fine focus. Of 16 asbestos workers, with 1 to 18 year's exposure, eight showed changes in the lung tissue with the enlargement technique; two of these showed no change by normal technique, and in the other six cases the degree of change shown was minimal. -- Cond. from Bull. Hyg.

- 200 Pneumoconiosis in a Feldspar Worker. W. Rotter and H. Gartner. *Zentralbl. Arbeitsmed. u. Arbeitsschutz* 4, 35-40 (Mar. 1954). German.

The authors describe a fatal case of lung disease in a feldspar worker, which they regard as modified silicosis. The dust contained 27.1% potassium

brucellosis in smoky city	299	Atomic bomb attack	
Anthrax		burns	319
bacteria, air-sampling	1074	psychological aspects	83, 1047
prevention in tanneries	828	first aid	1159
Anticholinesterases		radiologist's role	87
action	887	(see also Civil defense)	
of phosphorus compounds	888	Atomic power	
poisoning	63	project, health center	918
and respiratory failure	642	public health aspects	435
symposium	886	Autoradiography	
(see also Insecticides,		in radium detection	803
Cholinesterase)		Bacteriological safety	28
Antimony trioxide toxicity	511	BAL therapy	
Antiseptics, disinfectants,		cobalt poisoning	874
fungicides, and		lead poisoning	617, 1252, 1257
sterilization (bk. rev.)	356	Baritosis	304
Arsenic		Barium chloride, poisoning	512
hazard in mines	613	Benzene	
poisoning	755	data sheet	768
BAL treatment	1252	determination in air	561
and heart disease	271	metabolism	769
Arthritis, rheumatoid		poisoning	
x-ray appearances	180, 181	blood coagulation	1271, 1272
Artificial respiration		lymphoid lesions in	1008
(see Resuscitation)		serum lipase in	767
Asbestos		Benzene hexachloride	
dust in lungs	1021, 1022	detection in vegetables	674
and mica pneumoconiosis	550	determination in air	1165
in urine	905	determination in foods	1133
warts	262	hazard in paint	1014
Asbestosis		poisoning, chronic	166
early diagnosis	1299	sensitivity to	536
and pseudo-asbestosis		toxicity	537
bodies	73	Benzidine	
atmospheric turbulence		and derivatives, determination	564
studies	934	test for hazard	1275
		naphthylamines and tumors	772

- Ar-senic (cont.)
in town air (1952) 1134
trioxide
 detoxication by fluorides (1945) 905
 effect on rat tissue (1946) 417
 exposure in industry (1953) 809
 tolerance (rats) (1946) 416
- Ar-sine
in industry (1948) 977
mechanism of action (1947) 1173
poisoning (1947) 224, 858;
 (1948) 841; (1950) 573, 574;
 (1952) 33, 35
 from algae (1953) 1041
 and BAL (1950) 1039
 from boiler cleaning (1951) 844, 984
 case(s) (1946) 637; (1950) 459, 824, 825, 1282; (1951) 262
 electrocardiographic changes (1951) 985
 fatal case (1952) 34; (1953) 39
 prevention (1953) 1042
 from scaling (1950) 458
 smelting industry (1950) 1157, 1158
toxicity (1947) 1114
- Arterial oxygen saturation
termination (1952) 502
- Arthritis
and compensation (1950) 1036
criteria for compensation claims (1946) 1267
in industry (1952) 1176
Marie Stumpel's (1950) 1037
osteo, from pressure (1949) 790, 791
rheumatoid, and pneumoconiosis (1954) 180, 181
sequel of trauma wrist (1950) 40
- Artificial circulation (1947) 1367
 (see also Resuscitation)
- Artificial kidney
development of (1949) 143
- Artificial respiration (see also Resuscitation)
devices for (1945) 147
- Asbestos
clinical study (1953) 284
corns (1945) 68
dust control (1947) 327
dust in lungs (1954) 1021, 1022
 effect on tissue cultures (1948) 77
 lung cancer from (1953) 605
and mica pneumoconiosis (1954) 550
- Asbestos (cont.)
possible substitute (1945) 1239
and skin granuloma (1950) 1146
in urine (1954) 905
warts (1954) 262
- Asbestosis (1948) 278; (1950) 357, 1053; (1952) 674
aluminum prophylaxis (animals) (1947) 234
bodies, electron microscopy (1951) 1142
and cancer (1945) 69; (1949) 867; (1952) 1009
cases (1953) 79
 necropsied (1950) 36
control (1952) 83
diagnosis (1947) 1046; (1954) 1299
experimental (1945) 436; (1951) 192; (1952) 219, 436
in fibro-cement industry (1952) 84
in Finland (1947) 1045
French report (1948) 148
pathology (1953) 78, 604
in pipe-covering operations (1946) 353
pseudo-bodies (1952) 438; (1954) 73
and sarcoidosis (1947) 407
in Slovakia (1951) 88
study of (1951) 598
 miniature films (1953) 496
and tuberculosis (1948) 888
- Aspergillosis (1946) 142
- Asphyxia (see also Resuscitation)
treatment of (1946) 1259
- Asphyxiation
in a diving bell (1951) 580
- Asthma in industry (1952) 625
bronchial (1952) 958
- Atabrine
dermatitis (1947) 713
workers, "blue haleds" in (1947) 1324
- Athlete's foot (see also Dermato-
 phytoses and Fungus diseases)
cotton hose as vehicle (1945) 762
prevention (1949) 1007
treatment (1946) 324, 505, 1036
- Atmospheric conditions
conducive to efficiency (1945) 621
- Atmospheric contamination
pollution (see Air pollution)
symposium (1950) 391
- Atmospheric diffusion
measurement (1952) 1244
- Atmospheric pollution (see Air pollution)
- Atmospheric turbulence (bk. rev.) (1951) 14
measurement (1953) 643
studies (1954) 934
- Atomic energy (1946) 1091, 1092;
 (see also Radiation)
biological applications (1946) 570
chemical problems in (1951) 292
Commission medical program (1949) 127
constructive use (bk. rev.) (1950) 1027
economics (1948) 88
employee orientation (1952) 376
hazards (1946) 36, 988; (1947) 534, 995, 997; (1950) 612
 control, automatic (1951) 750
 control of (bk. rev.) (1950) 1027, 1028
 radiation-(see Radiation)
in industry (1947) 298, 883; (1949) 128
insurance (1947) 1260; (1950) 1207, 1208
international control (bk. rev.) (1947) 142
medical aspects (1946) 301; (1947) 996, 1119
neutron health monitoring (1949) 341 (1950) 225
physiologic effects (1947) 297
project, health center (1954) 918
protection from radiation (1946) 607
public health aspects (1954) 435
safeguards (1947) 326
slow tissue activation by neutrons (1946) 231
utilization of (1947) 1349
ventilation (1952) 227
- Atomic research
alleged injury to workers (1947) 999
- Atomic warfare
atomic bomb (bk. rev.) (1949) 809
biological aspects (1946) 1042, 1223
burns (1950) 968; (1951) 615; (1952) 790; (1954) 319
casualties care (1951) 384, 898; (1953) 747
damage and protection (1950) 500
defense, civil (1951) 94
 role of doctor (1950) 1065
disaster plan (1948) 689
effects (1947) 174, 994, 995, 1119, 1120; (1948) 1101; (1949) 213, 339, 492, 494; (1951) 98
 on blood (1950) 216, 217, 218, 219; (1953) 619



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B. Helferich and Erika Schmitz. *Beitr. Silikose-Forsch.* No. 24, 1-20 (1953). German.

This paper describes initial results on the inhibition of enzyme reactions by quartz dusts. It was found that potato phosphatase was adsorbed on quartz dust to an extent depending on the specific surface of the quartz, but that in the adsorbed state the enzyme was still nearly 100% active. Aluminum phosphate and aluminum silicate also adsorbed the enzyme. A search for phosphatase in a fresh sample of silicotic lung tissue gave negative results. The work will be continued with other enzymes. -- Cond. from Bull. Hyg.

- 199 Early Diagnosis of Asbestosis by Enlarged Radiographs. J. Krausler and R. Seyss. *Z. Unfallmed. u. Berufskrankh.* 47, 59-64 (Mar. 15, 1954). German.

After a brief description of asbestosis and the changes in the lung tissue in the early stages, the authors describe a radiographic technique with a fine focus. Of 16 asbestos workers, with 1 to 18 year's exposure, eight showed changes in the lung tissue with the enlargement technique; two of these showed no change by normal technique, and in the other six cases the degree of change shown was minimal. -- Cond. from Bull. Hyg.

- 1300 Pneumoconiosis in a Feldspar Worker. W. Rotter and H. Gartner. *Zentralbl. Arbeitsmed. u. Arbeitsschutz* 4, 35-40 (Mar. 1954). German.

The authors describe a fatal case of lung disease in a feldspar worker, which they regard as modified silicosis. The dust contained 27.1% potassium

tracosis in smoky city	299	Atomic bomb attack	
Anthrax		burns	319
bacteria, air-sampling	1074	psychological aspects	83, 1047
prevention in tanneries	828	first aid	1159
Anticholinesterases		radiologist's role	87
action	887	(see also Civil defense)	
of phosphorus compounds	888	Atomic power	
poisoning	63	project, health center	918
and respiratory failure	642	public health aspects	435
symposium	886	Autoradiography	
(see also Insecticides,		in radium detection	803
Cholinesterase)		Bacteriological safety	28
Antimony trioxide toxicity	511	BAL therapy	
Antiseptics, disinfectants,		cobalt poisoning	874
fungicides, and		lead poisoning	617, 1252, 1257
sterilization (bk. rev.)	356	Baritosis	304
Arsenic		Barium chloride, poisoning	512
azard in mines	613	Benzene	
poisoning	755	data sheet	768
BAL treatment	1252	determination in air	561
and heart disease	271	metabolism	769
Arthritis, rheumatoid		poisoning	
x-ray appearances	180, 181	blood coagulation	1271, 1272
Artificial respiration		lymphoid lesions in	1008
(see Resuscitation)		serum lipase in	767
Asbestos		Benzene hexachloride	
dust in lungs	1021, 1022	detection in vegetables	674
and mica pneumoconiosis	550	determination in air	1165
in urine	905	determination in foods	1133
warts	262	hazard in paint	1014
Asbestosis		poisoning, chronic	166
early diagnosis	1299	sensitivity to	536
and pseudo-asbestosis		toxicity	537
bodies	73	Benzidine	
ospheric turbulence		and derivatives, determination	564
studies	934	test for hazard	1275
		naphthylamines and tumors	772

- Arsenic (cont.)
 in town air (1952) 1134
 trioxide
 detoxication by fluorides (1945) 905
 effect on rat tissue (1946) 417
 exposure in industry (1953) 809
 tolerance (rats) (1946) 416
- Arsine
 in industry (1948) 977
 mechanism of action (1947) 1173
 poisoning (1947) 224, 858;
 (1948) 841; (1950) 573, 574;
 (1952) 33, 35
 from algae (1953) 1041
 and BAL (1950) 1039
 from boiler cleaning (1951) 844, 984
 case(s) (1946) 637; (1950) 459, 824, 825, 1282; (1951) 262
 electrocardiographic changes (1951) 985
 fatal case (1952) 34; (1953) 39
 prevention (1953) 1042
 from scaling (1950) 458
 smelting industry (1950) 1157, 1158
 toxicity (1947) 1114
- Arterial oxygen saturation
 determination (1952) 502
- Arthritis
 and compensation (1950) 1036
 criteria for compensation claims (1946) 1267
 in industry (1952) 1176
 Marie Stumpel's (1950) 1037
 osteo, from pressure (1949) 790, 791
 rheumatoid, and pneumoconiosis (1954) 180, 181
 sequel of trauma wrist (1950) 40
- Artificial circulation (1947) 1367
 (see also Resuscitation)
- Artificial kidney
 development of (1949) 143
- Artificial respiration (see also Resuscitation)
 devices for (1945) 147
- Asbestos
 clinical study (1953) 284
 corns (1945) 68
 dust control (1947) 327
 dust in lungs (1954) 1021, 1022
 effect on tissue cultures (1948) 77
 lung cancer from (1953) 605
 and mica pneumoconiosis (1954) 550
- Asbestos (cont.)
 possible substitute (1945) 1239
 and skin granuloma (1950) 1146
 in urine (1954) 905
 warts (1954) 262
- Asbestosis (1948) 278; (1950) 357, 1053; (1952) 674
 aluminum prophylaxis (animals) (1947) 234
 bodies, electron microscopy (1951) 1142
 and cancer (1945) 69; (1949) 867; (1952) 1009
 cases (1953) 79
 necropsied (1950) 36
 control (1952) 83
 diagnosis (1947) 1046; (1954) 1299
 experimental (1945) 436; (1951) 192; (1952) 219, 436
 in fibro-cement industry (1952) 84
 in Finland (1947) 1045
 French report (1948) 148
 pathology (1953) 78, 604
 in pipe-covering operations (1946) 353
 pseudo-bodies (1952) 438; (1954) 73
 and sarcoidosis (1947) 407
 in Slovakia (1951) 88
 study of (1951) 598
 miniature films (1953) 496
 and tuberculosis (1948) 888
- Aspergillosis (1946) 142
- Asphyxia (see also Resuscitation)
 treatment of (1946) 1259
- Asphyxiation
 in a diving bell (1951) 580
- Asthma in industry (1952) 625
 bronchial (1952) 958
- Atabrine
 dermatitis (1947) 713
 workers, "blue hales" in (1947) 1324
- Athlete's foot (see also Dermato-phytoses and Fungus diseases)
 cotton hose as vehicle (1945) 762
 prevention (1949) 1007
 treatment (1946) 324, 505, 1036
- Atmospheric conditions
 conducive to efficiency (1945) 621
- Atmospheric contamination
 pollution (see Air pollution)
 symposium (1950) 391
- Atmospheric diffusion
 measurement (1952) 1244
- Atmospheric pollution (see Air pollution)
- Atmospheric turbulence (bk. rev.) (1951) 14
 measurement (1953) 643
 studies (1954) 934
- Atomic energy (1946) 1091, 1092;
 (see also Radiation)
 biological applications (1946) 570
 chemical problems in (1951) 292
 Commission medical program (1949) 127
 constructive use (bk. rev.) (1950) 1027
 economics (1948) 88
 employee orientation (1952) 376
 hazards (1946) 36, 988; (1947) 534, 995, 997; (1950) 612
 control, automatic (1951) 750
 control of (bk. rev.) (1950) 1027, 1028
 radiation-(see Radiation)
 in industry (1947) 298, 883; (1949) 128
 insurance (1947) 1260; (1950) 1207, 1208
 international control (bk. rev.) (1947) 142
 medical aspects (1946) 301; (1947) 996, 1119
 neutron health monitoring (1949) 341 (1950) 225
 physiologic effects (1947) 297
 project, health center (1954) 918
 protection from radiation (1946) 607
 public health aspects (1954) 435
 safeguards (1947) 326
 slow tissue activation by neutrons (1946) 231
 utilization of (1947) 1349
 ventilation (1952) 227
- Atomic research
 alleged injury to workers (1947) 999
- Atomic warfare
 atomic bomb (bk. rev.) (1949) 809
 biological aspects (1946) 1042, 1223
 burns (1950) 968; (1951) 615; (1952) 790; (1954) 319
 casualties care (1951) 384, 898; (1953) 747
 damage and protection (1950) 500
 defense, civil (1951) 94
 role of doctor (1950) 1065
 disaster plan (1948) 689
 effects (1947) 174, 994, 995, 1119, 1120; (1948) 1101; (1949) 213, 339, 492, 494; (1951) 98
 on blood (1950) 216, 217, 218, 219; (1953) 619