

the nasal or bronchial mucosa, so that false negatives can be expected. For these people the more delicate but unpleasant mucosal tests should be used. Skin tests are of the greatest value in determining the responsible allergen. When the proper techniques are used, with potent standardized extracts, the correlation between history and skin tests is nearly perfect.

-- Can. Med. Assn. J. Abst.

- 41 Cutaneous Hypersensitivity to Cement and to Chromates in the Cement Industry. S. Ilic, et al. *Acta Med. Jugoslavica* 13, 332-338 (1959). French.

This investigation was undertaken to determine by skin tests the sensitivity of workers in 2 cement factories in both cement and to chromates. About 200 male workers in each of the 2 factories were examined and the results compared since it had been stated that the cement from the factory at Popovac contained chromate but that cement from the factory at Beocin did not. Analysis of the cement from the latter showed, however, that it did contain traces of potassium dichromate. Skin tests with a 0.5% solution of potassium dichromate and with 20% and 40% suspension of cement demonstrated skin sensitivity in 31 (14.5%) workers at Popovac of whom 7 reacted to both test agents, 16 to chromate and 8 to cement. At Beocin there were 7 positive reactors—1 to both agents, 1 to cement and 5 to chromate. These results are briefly analyzed. It appears that skin hypersensitivity is not common among cement workers but tends to be more frequent in the older age-groups; in those with long periods of work with cement and in certain stages of the manufacture in which workers sweat heavily. Chromate sensitivity was more frequently found than cement sensitivity. In general, the sensitivity was latent for only 3 cases of eczema found among all workers in the 2 factories.

-- Bull. Hyg.

- 42 Allergy in Workers in the Cement Industry. D. Karajovic, et al. *Acta Med. Jugoslavica* 13, 339-345 (1959). German.

In this paper there is an account of the clinical findings in the examination of workers at Popovac and Beocin whose reactions to skin sensitivity tests are described in the previous abstract. Among 425 workers were found 57 cases of chronic bronchitis, 21 of chronic bronchitis with emphysema, 6 of bronchial asthma and 7 cases of bronchitis of asthmatic type. The cases with asthma were considered to be allergic manifestations. These clinical findings and also the results of full examination of ear, nose and throat of about 100 workers are discussed in relation to the results of the skin tests. The high incidence of non-allergic and allergic illnesses is considered to be caused in part by the heavy physical work which is needed in the absence of sufficient mechanization, inadequate ventilation and the neglect of measures for the personal protection of the workers. Further research is needed to determine the constituents of the cement dust which are sensitizing.

-- Bull. Hyg.

- 43 Allergic Disease in the Antimony Mine. B. Bozovic, et al. *Acta Med. Jugoslavica* 13, 374-377 (1959).

This is a short paper in which there is a description without much detail, of the results of an investigation of the health of 135 workers, mostly between 20 and 50 years of age, in an antimony mine. The air of the mine has a high temperature, contains increased concentrations of sulfur dioxide and carbon monoxide and is of "abundant dustiness". The dust contains silica, antimony pentoxide, arsenic trioxide and lead oxide. The most important of the illnesses suffered by the workers were "acute inflammations of the upper respiratory tract" which represented 29% of the total, but "allergic diseases of the respiratory tract were not found at all". Skin tests carried out in 118 workers none of whom had any history of allergic manifestations showed that a high proportion of the men gave a positive result, i.e., "sensitive to general dust (28), bacteria (23), wheat parasites (21), mold (14), bud-clothes (6), and to the allergen of dust from the working place (5 workers)". -- Bull. Hyg.