

- 200 The Hazard of Lead Poisoning in Drawing and Lead Patenting Operations. L. Parmeggiani and N. Zurlo. *Med. lavoro* 46, 176-184 (Mar. 1955). Italian.

A lead hazard occurs in cold drawing and lead patenting (tempering wire in molten lead). The main source of contamination was found to be the lead dust formed on the surface of the wire immediately after lead coating. The same hazard is produced by dye-dressing of rubber tubes with lead coating and by all operations involving the cold working of lead in which dust particles from surface cracks are profusely dispersed. Lead poisoning occurred in a number of workers in wire drawing plants. Six cases of lead colic, five cases of anemia, and one case of wrist-drop are described. The importance of the hazard of lead poisoning from these operations is emphasized. -- Cond. from English summary (*Bull. Hyg.*)

- 201 The Prevention of Lead Poisoning. A Study of the Importance of Contact. J. Lacocq and J. deLay. *Arch. maladies profess.* 16, 378-380 (1955). French.

A study was made in a large factory where alloys containing 0.75 to 95% of lead were manipulated. Much dust fell on the floor and on the hands and clothing of workers. The workers took no precautions against lead poisoning. Notwithstanding plentiful opportunity for lead as such to gain access to the body, very few indications of lead absorption appeared. The absence of lead poisoning is attributed to the insolubility of metallic lead bound up with the other metals in the alloys. -- Cond. from *Bull. Hyg.*

- 202 A Note on the Treatment of Lead Colic with Chlorpromazine (Largactil). L. Pollet, M. Gaultier, J. Moreau, and J. Valtz. *Arch. maladies profess.* 16, 247-248 (1955). French.

The authors had under their care in hospital eight cases of definite lead poisoning with sharp colic. The cases presented all the classical signs of lead poisoning. The first five were treated in the usual way with atropine, two injections daily of 0.25 mgm. The colic continued without intermission for two or three days, only abating by the fifth day. Then for two cases chlorpromazine was given as well as the atropine. The pain rapidly gave way, and the last patient was therefore given only the chlorpromazine without any atropine. The colic was just as quickly assuaged. The drug was administered intramuscularly in two injections of 50 mgm. daily. -- *Bull. Hyg.*

- 203 Appearance, Evolution, and Treatment of Anemia in 103 Cases of Lead Poisoning Hospitalized at the Clinica del Lavoro from 1948 to June 1954. G. Saita and E. Arrigoni-Martelli. *Med. lavoro* 46, 199-210 (Mar. 1955). Italian.

The appearance and evolution of anemia were studied in 103 cases of lead poisoning. The average value of the anemia in 66 cases of lead colic was: Hb 62, red cells 3,200,000. In 37 cases of chronic lead poisoning the figures were: Hb 67, red cells 3,500,000. The drop in anemia was never below 2 millions of red cells. Stippled cells are always present in cases of colic. Reticulocytes and stipples are more abundant in cases of colic than in cases of chronic lead poisoning. On the average their increase is proportional to the severity of the anemia, but in individual cases the stippled cell values are widely scattered. Anemia occurred in as early as a few months in several cases, and in one case a few days after exposure. Anemia improved in most of the cases during hospitalization of four to six weeks, but only 16% reached normal values. Another 18% remained stationary, and a slight decrease was sometimes noted. Stippled cells decreased with the improvement of the anemia, but rarely disappeared completely during hospitalization. Without further exposure, blood levels reached normal after an average of 16 months. The stippled cells disappeared after one to 14 months following the acute episode. Colic was treated with calcium, or BAL, or hormones (cortisone and ACTH). Hormones had a favorable effect on colic, but were less efficient on anemia. In the treatment of chronic poisoning, liver extracts had a better effect on the blood level than sodium citrate.

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