

- 57 Pigmentary Disturbance Following Exposure to Monobenzyl Ether of Hydroquinone. E.J. Bernstein and P.M. Sachs. Arch. Dermat. & Syph. 59, p. 542 (May, 1949).

In 1940 Schwartz and associates reported depigmentation secondary to the wearing of rubber gloves. The leukoderma was traced to monobenzyl ether of hydroquinone, an antioxidant used in the preparation of the rubber. This report presents four cases of this disorder, those of three negroes employed in the manufacture of rubber dolls and of a white man exposed to neoprene. In the four cases monobenzyl ether of hydroquinone was employed in the preparation of the rubber. None of the patients had previous disturbances of this nature. Patch tests of substances to which the patients were exposed gave positive reactions only to monobenzyl ether of hydroquinone. The three negro patients exhibited depigmentation, while the white man showed hyperpigmentation. Other cases with similar involvement, in the same plant and elsewhere are known to the authors. Non-occupational origin of this depigmentation has been observed in the use of rubber products. In some cases the pigmentary disturbance was preceded by inflammation. Elimination of contact with the rubber was followed by restoration of the pigment. -- Condensed from Arch. Ind. Hyg. & Occ. Med.

- 58 Dermatitis in the Making of Chocolate Candy. M.H. Samitz. Occ. Med. and Surg. 19, 35-36 (January, 1950).

(1) Descriptions of the types of eruptions prone to occur among chocolate workers in candy factories were reviewed. (2) The mechanism in the production of these eruptions was explained. A case of furunculosis and folliculitis in a chocolate candy worker was reported, and the importance of understanding the mechanism responsible for these infections was stressed. Such knowledge will enable the expert physician to establish the criteria necessary for a diagnosis of a case of industrial dermatitis.

-- Author's Summary and Conclusion

Chemical Hazards

- 59 Tabulation of Toxicity Classes. H.C. Hodge and J.H. Sterner. Am. Ind. Hyg. Assoc. Quart. 10, 93-96 (Dec. 1949).

This report summarizes the discussions of the Toxicological Round-Table during the past three years on standardization in toxicological terminology and in methods of testing. The proposed terms for ranges of toxicity are: (1) extremely toxic; (2) highly toxic; (3) moderately toxic; (4) slightly toxic; (5) practically non-toxic; and (6) relatively harmless. Roughly as a suggestion, the amounts of substances in each class that would be lethal to man are: (1) a drop or grain; (2) a teaspoonful; (3) an ounce; (4) a pint; (5) a quart; and (6) more than a quart. A chart shows the relationship on a logarithmic scale with metric quantities. It is proposed to establish separate scales for oral and intraperitoneal administration, inhalation, and skin application, with tabulations for different animal species. Short tables are given, with a few substances classified, for each method.