

PCB POISONING AND POLLUTION

Edited by
Kentaro HIOUCHI
Fukuoka University Hospital, Japan

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Fig. 7 15 Swelling of the eyelids and brownish skin pigmentation of a new-born baby.



Fig. 7 9 Nail pigmentation (S K., aged 5, female).



Fig. 7 10 Pigmentation of the palpebral conjunctiva and limbal conjunctiva



Fig. 7 11 Gingival pigmentation (N K., aged 36, female)



Fig. 7 12 Pigmentation of the lips

Contributors

- Kentaro HIGUCHI, Fukuoka University Hospital, Nishi-ku, Fukuoka 814, Japan
- Chisato HIRAYAMA, Third Department of Internal Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Kyushu University, Fukuoka 812, Japan
- Masahiro KIKUCHI, Department of Pathology, Faculty of Medicine, Fukuoka University, Fukuoka 814, Japan
- Hiromu KODA, Department of Dermatology, Faculty of Medicine, Kyushu University, Fukuoka 812, Japan
- Masanori KURATSUNE, Department of Public Health, Faculty of Medicine, Kyushu University, Fukuoka 812, Japan
- Yoshito MASUDA, Daiichi College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Fukuoka 815, Japan
- Hiroya TANABE, Food Hygiene Laboratory, Sagami Women's University, Sagami-hara-shi 228, Japan
- Roy TATSUKAWA, College of Agriculture, Ehime University, Matsuyama-shi 790, Japan
- Kiichi UEDA, Laboratory of Hygiene and Oral Health, Showa University, Tokyo 142, Japan
- Harukuni URABE, Department of Dermatology, Faculty of Medicine, Kyushu University, Fukuoka 812, Japan
- Shin'ichi YOSHIMURA, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Kyushu University, Fukuoka 812, Japan
- Hidetoshi YOSHIMURA, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Kyushu University, Fukuoka 812, Japan

Preface

Recently, the various health hazards and dangers of indiscriminate discharge of industrial wastes into the environment have been emphasized. Also, strong warnings have been issued, both officially and unofficially, against polluting the environment with toxic or otherwise harmful industrial products. However, it is distressing that, so often, severe cases of poisoning are required before the dangers are fully recognized or effective countermeasures can be implemented or enforced.

The present book covers the broad field of PCB poisoning and pollution in Japan. It emphasizes the case of direct human poisoning by oral intake of PCB-contaminated rice-oil (Yusho), and also includes sections on the experimental and toxicological aspects of PCB poisoning, and on the general pollution of the natural environment by PCB's.

The medical description of Yusho covers epidemiologic, pathologic, clinical and therapeutic studies, and there are detailed descriptions of the dermal symptoms (which resemble chloracne) and other major clinical manifestations of the disease, in both adults and children. The sections on toxicology cover various studies, mostly animal experiments, on the physiological and other effects of PCB's, and on the absorption, distribution and metabolism of PCB's in the animal body. The sections devoted to environmental pollution in Japan describe both the microanalytical methodology for PCB's, as adopted in Japan, and also the extent of pollution of the atmosphere, freshwater and marine environments, soil, agricultural products, fish, birds, and man.

As editor for this project, I wish to express my appreciation to all authors for their contributions, and would also like to take this opportunity to thank the staff of Kodansha for their editorial and linguistic assistance in the preparation of the English manuscript comprising this book.

July, 1976

K. HIUCHI

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