

INDUSTRIAL MEDICAL PRACTICE

- 121 A Clinical Survey of a Cross-Section of an Industrial Worker Group. R. E. Birk.
Arch. Environmental Health 1, 291-296 (Oct. 1960).

A periodic health survey, utilizing symptoms and signs as a determining factor for evaluation, of 400 supposedly well patients from a heterogeneous group is described. The yield in terms of treatable disease is high and compares favorably with more extensive evaluations. The cost of such examinations and the expenditure in physicians' time are within reasonable limits, making this type of evaluation worth considering as a means of dealing with large groups.
-- Author's summary

- 122 Mental Health and the Worker. S. Greenhill. J. Occ. Med. 2, 576-578 (Dec. 1960).

Most human factors affecting mental health and productivity will not be found clustered around the work place. They will, instead, be found in diverse and unsuspected spots along the road from infancy to adulthood. A few hints are given as to the most likely spots where these factors may be found.
-- Author's conclusion

- 123 The Early Recognition of Behavioral Disturbances. R. W. Waggoner.
Ind. Med. & Surg. 29, 465-469 (Oct. 1960).

Although this discussion was to have been primarily focused on the recognition of behavior difficulties, that is, early mental disease, it seems that much can be learned from military experience with regard to other related factors involved in the occurrence of mental disease in industrial personnel. An attempt has been made to correlate some of these factors. The author ends his paper with a quotation from Oliver Wendell Holmes: "Emphasis on the obvious is often more important than elucidation of the obscure."

- 124 Incidence of Vasopastic Disturbances of Hands in Miners. B. Anda.
Nord. Hyg. Tidsskr. 41, 123-147 (1960).

One hundred eighteen miners exposed to vibrations from pneumatic tools at the Sulitejelma copper mines in Norway have been examined with regard to "white fingers". Seventy-one out of 85 drillers operating drills with 3,000 to 4,000 vibrations per minute had "white fingers". The average time of exposure before onset of symptoms was 5 years. X-ray examinations revealed pathologic changes in bones and joints of the hands in 37 cases; in addition traumatic osteoarthritis in the elbow (6 cases) and in the shoulder (1 case). On the basis of their complaints and especially of the results of the clinical examinations, the subjects have been classified into 4 groups, Normal: 14. Stadium I: 35. Stadium II: 17. Stadium III: 19. Examinations of the remaining 33 miners showed that 32 had "white fingers", 21 of them had at an earlier period of time been exposed to work with pneumatic tools as drillers. Prophylactic measures are discussed.
-- Bull. Hyg.

- 125 Findings of X-Ray Examination of the Bones and Joints of Workers with Pneumatic Tools. G. Bittersohl. Arch. Gewerbepathol. Gewerbehyg. 17, 597-617 (1960). German.

A discussion of the literature on the nature and mechanism of causation of damage to the bones and joints of workers with pneumatic tools introduces the findings of routine x-ray examinations carried out on 486 such workers. These workers were: (1) Boiler maker, and steel workers. (2) Building workers. (3) Miners. Particulars are given of the differ-