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d. CREOSOTE

Creosote is a fractionation product of wood or gas tar which distills over between 210° and 280°C and which is extensively used in industry for various purposes (wood preservative: wooden paving blocks, railroad ties, telegraph poles, shingles, props in mines; preparation of lysol; manufacture of oil pressed bricks; sheep dip; Diesel engine and furnace fuel). Individuals exposed to an occupational contact with creosote oil are workers employed in tar distilleries; men engaged in the pickling of timber; railroad workers, miners, and carpenters who handle creosoted wood; brick, tile and pipe pressers using creosote oil for the lubrication of die molds; farmers using creosote oil for dipping; Diesel engines' engineers and delivery men of this fuel; attendants of furnaces in glass works, steel works (heating of rivets) (Bridge and Henry; O'Donovan; White; Heller; Hope; and others). During some of the operations mentioned (pickling of timber for waterproofing), *hot creosote* is used. Splashes of creosote are received during this and other operations on the face, forearms and hands and, at the same time the trousers are soaked with creosote oil, exposing thus indirectly the anterior aspects of the thighs and the scrotal region to this substance.

Mackenzie (1898) reported from England the first case of scrotal papillomatosis suspected of malignancy of the skin in a pickler of railroad ties, while Legge observed eczematous eruptions on the forearms of men using creosote for the lubrication of die moulds in brick factories (Kennaway). In 1920 O'Donovan recorded the first and definitely established cases of creosote epithelioma in four picklers of timber. These cases were seen by O'Donovan from 1902 to 1920 in 16 cases of occupational skin cancer. Cookson added one more case of creosote carcinoma in 1924. Bridge and Henry, in 1928, noted ten additional cases of this industrial neoplasm, six of these being present in brick,