problem. Any accident, industrial or otherwise, or inhalation of noxious agents, may result in disability or death. All cases of homicide or suicide require not only medical knowledge but also interpretation of the findings and the physician's assistance in the administration of justice. Therefore every medical student and physician should receive information on the various phases of legal medicine. This can be accomplished by teaching legal medicine to undergraduate students and to physicians at the graduate and postgraduate levels.

187 The Evaluation of Claims for Workmen's Compensation in Cardiac Disability and Death. L. H. Sigler. Ind. Med. & Surg. 25, 10-16 (Jan. 1956).

The author discusses the controversial question whether cardiac disability and death may be caused by strain and trauma. Case reports are cited illustrating various phases of the question. Myocardial ischemia, ischemia neurosis and infarction, which are the underlying causes of the clinical manifestations of the acute phase of coronary artery disease, are not due solely to coronary thrombosis. Among the potent factors are emotional and physical strain. Criteria are suggested for establishing causal relationship between physical or emotional strain and resulting cardiac disability or death. In these criteria the severity of the strain, the time of appearance of the symptoms, presence of pre-existing heart disease, and other factors are fully considered.

188 Physical Standards for Vehicle Operators: An Aid to Accident Prevention. H. Brandaleone and G. J. Friedman. Ind. Med. & Surg. 25, 17-22 (Jan. 1956).

A list of medical standards used in the qualification of motor vehicle operators in transportation is presented as a guide in the establishment of standards for all drivers, as an aid to accident prevention. -- Cond. from authors' summary

SKIN DISEASES AND BURNS

189 Skin Testing of Industrial Compounds. Development of Polyvalent Sensitivity. E. Von Haam and F. S. Mallette. Am. Ind. Hyg. Assn. Quart. 16, 324-329 (Dec. 1955).

Divergent results of patch tests with two well-known plasticizers obtained by the authors and by others led to an investigation which revealed the cause of the discrepancy. The authors' previous results were obtained with test subjects who had been similarly tested many times before and some of whom experienced an increase in skin irritability. Six compounds, none of which had been tested on these subjects before, and none of which were considered sensitizing, were used in patch tests on these subjects and on others who had not been previously tested. A definite difference was established between the two groups. Moreover, it was demonstrated that the skin irritability could be increased comparatively quickly in a group of new subjects by subjecting them to repeated patch tests over a short period of time. This altered skin irritability was shown to be non-specific. The development of this non-specific irritability has not been recognized properly in the literature and constitutes a serious source of error in prophetic patch test procedures. Testing each compound on a new group of subjects would be impracticable. The method which the authors have adopted is to continue the tests as before but to retest all compounds which give positive reactions, using a new group of subjects before accepting the results as final. Ninety compounds which proved to be irritating in various degrees in earlier tests are being retested on new groups of subjects. -- Cond. from authors' conclusions

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