

Guard Against Lead Poisoning

ONE IN THREE children poisoned by lead dies, statistics show.

Doctors agree there is no really effective antidote for lead poisoning. The responsibility for prevention lies with the family.

O. L. Hogsett, safety specialist for the University of Illinois College of Agriculture, offered this safety advice to parents:

Never permit a child to chew on painted surfaces or to eat paint flakes from peeling walls

and woodwork. If your house or apartment was painted before you occupied it, remove loose or flaking paint and plaster.

If possible, repaint your house using an interior paint that contains not more than one per cent lead. The label on the container will list the percentage.

Never use exterior paints on indoor walls, woodwork, toys or furniture. These paints contain as high as 70 per cent lead.

To Your Good Health

Inhaling Gasoline Fumes Can Cause Lead Poisoning

By JOSEPH G. MULLER, M.D.

QUESTION: What are the symptoms of lead poisoning? Can it result from cleaning auto parts with gasoline?

I wonder if my 16-year-old son got it when he was repairing his car. He became quite sick, especially with headaches, lost weight and looked pale. What organ does lead poisoning affect? Does one get anemia from it? — G. J. F.

ANSWER: Lead poisoning can be caused by breathing the fumes of or of handling gasoline that contains tetra-ethyl lead.

There are different degrees of lead poisoning, but your son's headaches and pallor are among the usual symptoms. Others are loss of appetite, nausea and neuritis. A typical sign is a bluish-gray discoloration at the junction of the gums and teeth.

Since the lead is absorbed into the bloodstream, virtually all organs can be affected to some degree, and red blood cells can be damaged, causing anemia.

If your son continues tinkering with his car, as no doubt he will at that age, he should work only in a well-ventilated place, and he should use some (ethyl) gasoline for cleaning purposes. White gasoline or kerosene would be better.

Lead poisoning has not generally been regarded as a boon to mankind, but may be it was, if Professor S. S. Giffillan's theory holds up. The retired Chicagoan, now sensibly resident in Santa Monica, Calif., is awaiting shipment of a parcel of bones which he expects to support his thesis that the Roman Empire and Greek civilization, too, declined and fell because of diet. The wealthy, which often included the talented, gorged themselves on syrups and wines which contained lethal amounts of lead, says the professor, and they died out.

Professor, and they died out, if Rome had not collapsed, of course.

UN headquarters would now be located there and we might be electing a Proconsul instead of a President. The Phillies would be playing in the Colosseum. Taxes would be higher than they are now. De Gaulle would have been crucified as a trouble-maker, long ago.

Before saying "Vive le Lead" though, it would be well to make sure the professor gets his parcel. It was mailed from Tunisia clearly labeled "old bones." No U. S. Customs man is going to believe that for a minute. This package is going to be thoroughly studied before it ever gets to Santa Monica.

Lead Poisoning Precaution Urged

Harrisburg, June 2—(UPI)—The State Health Department yesterday urged that precautions against lead poisoning be taken on demolition or construction projects.

The department's Industrial Hygiene Section said respirators should be worn at all times and replacements for respirators should be available. It also urged periodic physical examinations of workers exposed to a lead hazard.

Waiting for the Old Bones

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