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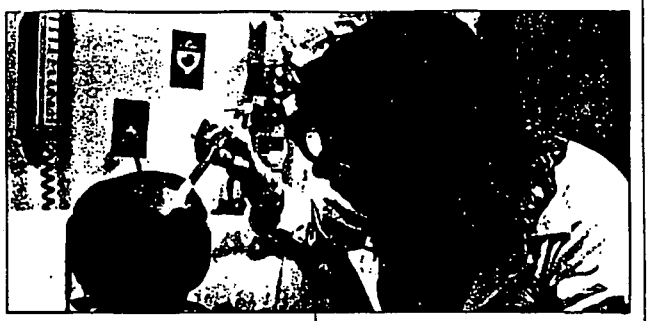

FEMALE PHYSICIANS MORE SATISFIED

Female doctors tend to be happier with their profession than their male counterparts, according to a study of graduates from Case Western Reserve University's School of Medicine.

The 10-year study indicated women physicians were more satisfied with their careers than men physicians despite not reaching the same academic or econmic levels as the men, Dr. Betty Hosmer Mawardi of Case said. Only male surgeons scored higher on job satisfaction, she said.

Dr. Mawardi said a major reason for the greater degree of job satisfaction among female physicians was that many of the women took time off to have children and take care of their families. These women worked an average of 35 hours a week compared to 53 hours a week for the average male.

SEPARATE ASBESTOS STANDARD POSSIBLE

There is a "fair chance" OSHA will propose a separate asbestos standard for the construction industry, Pat Tyson, deputy assistant administrator for OSHA, said. Tyson said the agency may come out with a permanent general standard on asbestos by the May 1984 deadline and, at the same time, propose a separate construction standard.

The separate asbestos standard for construction has been requested by several construction organizations because of the uniqueness of the construction industry.

OSHA issued a six-month temporary standard Nov. 4 which established an permissible exposure limit of 0.5 fiber per cubic centimeter and allowed that limit to be achieved through the use of engineering controls, work practices or personal protective equipment. The Building and Construction Trades Department, AFL-CIO has submitted a proposal on asbestos to OSHA calling for a permissable exposure limit of 0.1 fiber per cubic centimeter.

MORE ACTIVE ROLE URGED FOR ACS

Twenty-four scientists, including former Assistant Labor Secretary Eula Bingham, have called for more effort toward worker protection from exposure to known and potential carcinogens by the American Cancer Society (ACS).

In a letter to Lane W. Adams, executive vice president of ACS, the group of scientist urged the society to give more consideration to animal data in determining whether a substance is a human carcinogen in revisions of the 1982 "Guidelines for Advice to the Public on Human Carcinogens." Failing this, the scientists said the organization should "apply its resources aggressively to restrict the use of agents for which there is epidemiological evidence of carcinogenicity."

The scientists said the society's 1982 guidelines "trigger ACS warnings" about cancer hazards "only when epidemiological data prove carcinogenicity." Where animal data constitute the only evidence of carcinogenicity, the guidelines, "allow, but do not require, ACS action," they said.

The letter stated ACS should take strong public positions on the control of carcinogens by lobbying and participating in administrative rulemaking on asbestos, benzene, nickel and beryllium, for example.

Irving Rimer, ACS spokesman, said the society's guidelines do recognize findings from animal studies, even though primary weight is given to epidemiological results. The organization has issued statements on such substances as benzene and formaldehyde even in the absence of human data, Rimer said.

MDA SUSPECTED AS CANCER RISK

As many as 13,000 workers are estimated to be exposed to a chemical used in making rigid polyurethane foams which may pose a significant risk of cancer according to NIOSH.

NIOSH is currently developing a suitable test protocol for a urine test for workers exposed to 4,4-methylenedianline (MDA).

Tests on a related substance, methylenediaminedihydrochloride, found the chemical produced cancer in both sexes of rats and mice at two dose levels. A preliminary risk assessment based on National Toxicology Program bioassay studies on the dichloride salt showed that an exposure level of 0.1 ppm appears to pose a significant risk of cancer in humans as well.

ILO ISSUES VOL.2 OF ENCYCLOPEDIA

The International Labor Office has made available the second volume of a third revised edition of the *Encyclopedia of Occupational Health and Safety*.

Volume 2 of the encyclopedia covers topics alphabetized under the letters L-Z and includes more than 1,300 pages of illustrated reference information on health and safety topics. The first edition of the encyclopedia was published in 1930. A second edition was produced in 1971.

Copies of the two-volume encyclopedia may be ordered for $155 from the International Labor Office, Washington Branch Sales Office, 1750 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20006, telephone (202) 376-2315.

OSHA ISSUES RULE FOR RIM WHEELS

A final rule on single piece rim wheels was issued by OSHA Feb. 2. The rule requires employers to protect workers from exploding rim wheels with barriers or restraining devices and to train workers to handle rim wheels safely.

Restraining devices must be able to withstand the force of a tire separating from the wheel rim at 150 percent of the maximum tire air pressure specification for the type tire being serviced according to the rule. Restraining devices currently being used for multipiece rim wheels are allowed as well as barriers not specifically designed as restraining devices.

Employers must visually inspect the restraining devices daily and devices which are repaired must be certified as meeting the strength requirements by the manufacturer or a registered professional engineer.

Under the training provision of the rule, employers must train employees in the proper techniques of handling rim wheels safely. The standard primarily covers about 322,000 workers in retail gasoline stations and garages.

The estimated cost of the new rule is about $2.5 million in the first year and $900,000 in subsequent years according to OSHA. A brochure detailing provisions of the new rule is available from the agency. For a copy of "Servicing Sin-

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