

- 927 Turpentine and Dermatitis. Queries and Minor Notes.
J.A.M.A. 140, 1069 (July 23, 1949).

Four forms of turpentine have wide and somewhat similar fields of industrial application, and all have been associated with the causation of some dermatitis among those exposed. The earliest form was "gum spirits turpentine" which was derived from the distillation of gum exuded from living pine trees after slashing. "Steam distilled" and "destructively distilled" turpentines are obtained chiefly from stumps reduced to chip size. A fourth form is prepared by extraction from chipped, dead pine wood by such solvents as naphtha, followed by distillation to recover the naphtha and remove the heavier residues.

- 928 Local and Systemic Effects Following Skin Contact With Phenol- A Review of the Literature. W.B. Deichmann. J. Ind. Hyg. & Tox. 31, 146-154 (May, 1949).

From the works reviewed, it is evident that dilute and concentrated aqueous solutions of phenol pass readily through the skin and mucous membranes. They should not be used as dressings or compresses or for washing hair to treat infections. In case a salve containing 1 to 2% of phenol is used, only small areas should be treated at one time and bandages should not be applied to the site of treatment. Mixtures of phenol and camphor containing 30% or a higher concentration of phenol should never be considered for self-medication. -- Author's Discussion

- 929 Local Application of Aluminum Foil and Other Substances in Burn Therapy. W.A. Brown, A.W. Farmer and W.R. Franke. Am. J. Surg. 76, 594-604 (Nov. 1948).

The use of aluminum foil appeared to influence favorably the local result by elimination of the use of ointments and by facilitating the dispersion of exudate to the periphery of the burn. No evidence of toxicity resulted. The systemic reaction was, if anything, less obvious. Titanium dioxide exposure cream was considered to be irritating, as shown by production of pain, delay in healing, and possible destruction of epithelial remnants. Massive doses of ascorbic acid quickly corrected the state of ascorbic acid depletion, but did not influence the systemic reaction to thermal burns nor lessen the general signs of illness. Blood glutathione levels were not found to be influenced by thermal burns within the limits of the method of determination employed and bore no consistent relationship to changes in serum ascorbic acid levels. -- Authors' Summary

New High in College Graduates.

An all-time high of approximately 430,000 college and university degrees were conferred during the year ending June 30, 1949, according to the Federal Security Agency's Office of Education. This year's total exceeds that of last year by 11,000 and is almost double that of the prewar peak year of 1939-40. The total includes 375,000 bachelor's or first professional degrees, and 55,000 master's and doctor's degrees. --Chem. and Eng. News (Aug. 8, 1949)