

urine analysis for total (free plus conjugated) 1-naphthol. When absorbed into the body, Sevin is metabolized and excreted, at least partially, as 1-naphthol. Relatively large amounts of 1-naphthol were excreted by employees exposed to air concentrations of Sevin ranging from 0.23 to 31 mg. of dust per cubic meter of air. Blood cholinesterase levels in exposed employees were mostly within the normal range and only occasionally slightly depressed. In no instance was there clinical or subjective evidence of increased acetylcholine activity among these employees.

-- Cond. from Authors' summary

- 1154 Methoxychlor in Eggs and Chicken Tissues. C. E. Olney, W. E. Donaldson and T. W. Kerr. *J. Econ. Entomol.* 55, 477-479 (Aug. 1962).

Both laying hens and growing chicks were fed 2, 4, 8, 10, 100, and 1,000 ppm of methoxychlor in their daily diet, the hens for 85 days and the chicks for 56 days, without adverse effect on egg production, feed utilization, maintenance of body weight or mortality. The insecticide was not detectable in the eggs at the lower feeding levels, but was readily found at the 100 and 1,000 ppm diets from the eighth day onward. It could no longer be detected in the eggs 14 and 28 days, respectively, after hens on the 100 and 1,000 ppm diets were returned to the control diet. Methoxychlor appeared in the fat and skin at the lower feeding levels and in the heart, gizzard, leg, liver and breast, as well as at the higher diet levels. Cessation of feeding of methoxychlor resulted in a relatively rapid decline of the insecticide in all tissues except the skin and fat. In these two tissues the level dropped to less than 0.05 ppm after 63 days.

-- Public Health Eng. Abstr.

- 1155 Accidental Poisoning from Agricultural Pesticides. A. Arnan. *Bull. World Health Organization* 26, 109-120 (1962).

This report, based on a dissertation for the London DPH, describes with many details the result of introducing economically valuable but otherwise dangerous materials into a relatively primitive community. The author is Medical Officer of Health for Beersheba, Israel. In a period of 12 months, 21 cases of poisoning from parathion with 7 deaths were recorded among a population of only 60,000, and of these 19 were in children under 15 years of age, indicating that the main hazard from a substance like parathion lies not in the field but in and around the home. Control measures taken are briefly described. The organization of facilities for diagnoses and treatment is given as well as details of the results of treatment of parathion poisoning with atropine and pyridine-2-aldoxime-methiodide which was made available after the first cases had been reported. In the account of the accidents attention is drawn to the presence of thallium DDT, dieldrin and other preparations "stored on shelves cheek by jowl with food articles."

-- Bull. Hyg.

- 1156 Effects of Hyoscine and Meclozine on Vigilance and Short-Term Memory. W. P. Colquhoun. *Brit. J. Ind. Med.* 19, 287-296 (Oct. 1962).

An investigation was made of the effects of 1 mg. hyoscine hydrobromide and of 50 mg. meclozine hydrochloride on the performance of tasks of vigilance and short-term memory. In further trials the effects of these drugs were measured after ingestion of 32 g. ethyl alcohol. Efficiency was impaired by hyoscine taken alone, but meclozine alone had no significant effect. The effect of hyoscine was substantially increased by the presence of alcohol and under these conditions the effect of meclozine was equally great. The vigilance task appeared to be more sensitive to the effects of the drugs than the memory task, and possible reasons for this are considered in the discussion.

-- Author's abst.