

at the present time, the number of notified cases is still more than 20 each year. To a certain extent ring spinning is replacing mule spinning, but it is the opinion of many authorities in the trade that the mule will never be superseded completely by the ring. The problem is therefore going to remain for some considerable time.

The first interim report of the Joint Advisory Committee was published in 1945. That report recommended, among other things, that oils used for the lubrication of mule spindles should conform to a specification commonly called the "Twort" specification, which was related to the specific refractivity of spindle oils, until such time as non-carcinogenic oils became available.

The present report discusses the application of technical white oils to mule spindle lubrication. These oils, which are water-white mineral oils closely related to medicinal paraffin, have been drastically refined with sulphuric acid so that all the unsaturated polycyclic hydrocarbons among which the carcinogens occur have been removed. In addition tests carried out by the Shirley Institute at the request of the Joint Advisory Committee have shown that they are just as efficient lubricants as the spindle oils normally used, and a specification for these oils has been set out based on colour and viscosity. The Committee says that although the specification may appear to some to be too simple to be effective, it is the most conclusive test of drastic refining which they have been able to accept. It is, for example, so sensitive in the range proposed that the addition of 0.5% of an ordinary spindle oil to one of these oils would bring it outside the specification. This is an improvement on the Twort specification which could be satisfied by mixing two different oils, neither of which conformed to the specification.

The Joint Standing Committee considered that the practice of blending mineral oils with fatty oils with the object of improving the lubricity of the former was not necessary, and they recommended that oils used for mule spindle lubrication should conform with the specification given above. The reason for this recommendation is that a blended oil is not capable of being tested by the method proposed. They also endorsed the recommendations in the 1945 report; first that there should be periodic medical examinations of all persons engaged in mule spinning, and second that suitable devices to prevent the splashing of oils from mule spindles should be provided.

The committee is aware that the Medical Research Council and the Institute of Petroleum are conducting a large scale investigation into the question of cancer and oil, but feel justified in making this interim recommendation until more information is available.

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**Rosenau. Preventive Medicine and Hygiene.** 7th edition, edited by Kenneth F. Maxcy. (Pp. XV+1,462; illustrated. £5 5s.) New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts, Inc. 1951.

The last edition of Rosenau appeared in 1935. A new edition of the greatest textbook of preventive medicine is an important event especially when the new

editor is so distinguished a man as the Professor of Epidemiology at Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene. Professor Maxcy has worked with a first-rate group of collaborators and the resulting text has the distinction and the scientific qualities which one would expect from its editor and his colleagues. The book can indeed be regarded as a statement of the teaching of the Johns Hopkins School.

Most of the text has been rewritten and recast in this edition; nevertheless the broad statement which the book conveys is very much within Rosenau's original frame of reference. The editor has probably paid a price for maintaining this original framework. Rosenau's first edition in 1913 had a more revolutionary approach to the subject for its day and age than this edition has for today. In his foreword written in 1913 Rosenau remarked that "preventive medicine has become a basic factor in sociology". Yet the latest edition deals slenderly with topics of medical sociology and the implementation of policies outside the fields of infectious disease and environmental control. Only a sixth of the text is devoted to personal health services and public health organization, with practically nothing at all on medical care. Some of the landmarks of the original Rosenau are missing, and one reader at least regrets the disappearance of Rosenau's well tried teaching expedient of the sanitary survey.

It is, however, churlish to criticize the book for not being something which its editor never intended it to be. The last sections of the book are those concerned with the epidemiology and prevention of infectious diseases. We owe a debt of gratitude to Professor Maxcy for providing such a complete treatise on the epidemiology of the school of Wade Hampton Frost. The breadth of discussion and the scientific balance of the section on the communicable diseases makes it invidious to pick out any one chapter for special comment. The statement on epidemiological methodology is a classic of its kind and well supported by Densen's chapters on statistical methods. The section on food sanitation and the sanitary control of water supplies, sewage and refuse disposal are strong outlines of the policy which follows from the epidemiological teaching.

The original edition of Rosenau had 24 pages on industrial hygiene and diseases of occupation. The present edition has a section of over 100 pages with chapters on occupational diseases, the general health of the working population, work and fatigue, and policies for the promotion of industrial medicine and hygiene. This section is contributed by Dr. Anna Baetjer who is also responsible for chapters on temperature, radiation (including atomic radiation), the effects of high and low barometric pressures, noise, atmospheric pollution, and resuscitation. Dr. Baetjer gives a lucid review of the mass of contemporary American research in these fields.

The book is well produced and illustrated, meticulously indexed, and carefully referenced. Everyone who takes preventive medicine seriously should have it. But it is very expensive.

