MISCELLANEA

Interdigital Pilonidal Sinus Due to Pig Bristles

BY

A. C. DA ROZA

From the Royal West Sussex Hospital, Chichester

(RECEIVED FOR PUBLICATION SEPTEMBER 14, 1962)

Many cases have been reported of interdigital pilonidal sinuses in the hands of barbers, due to the implantation of human hair. Wool can cause similar lesions among handlers of sheep, and horse-hair among upholstery workers. The case reported here demonstrates that pig bristles may also be a causative agent.

A slaughter-house worker aged 47 attended the dermatological clinic with one month's history of wetness and irritation of the skin between the left middle and ring fingers. He was right-handed and did not wear a ring.

The left ring finger had become inflamed six months previously, the inflammation subsiding towards the base of the digit and resulting in the gradual formation of a lump dorsally over a period of three months.

On examination there was an interdigital sinus from which protruded two lengths of hard bristle 0.25 in. (0.63 cm.) long. The sinus when probed was found to extend towards a granulomatous plaque which was 0.5 in. (1.27 cm.) in diameter and situated dorsally 1 in. (2.54 cm.) from the interdigital web.

Under local anaesthesia the plaque and sinus were excised *en bloc*. Within this tissue about a dozen lengths of bristle were found. These were promptly identified by the patient himself as having come off a pig. He had worked for 20 years in a slaughter-house.

The microscopical appearance of the excised specimen was that of a foreign body granuloma.

I am indebted to Dr. E. Colin-Jones for permission to publish this case and to Dr. D. King for the histological report.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Joseph, H. L., and Gifford, H. (1954). *A.M.A. Arch. Derm. Syph.*, 70, 616.
Matheson, A. D. (1951). *Aust. N.Z.J. Surg.*, 21, 76.

BOOK REVIEWS

Praktische Arbeitsphysiologie. By Gunther Lehmann. (Pp. viii + 409; 205 figures + 17 tables. DM. 59) Stuttgart: Georg Thieme. 1962.

This second edition of the textbook published in 1953 is called for not only because of advances in occupational physiology but also because many working processes have been altered and improved. The book is intended not only for doctors in industry but also for engineers. For this reason it contains a considerable amount of elementary physiology necessary for the understanding of the problems under consideration. There is an appendix explaining some medical terms used in the text; these are marked with a star. The 205 illustrations throughout the text assist in elucidating the many problems discussed. There are pictures of working processes, of tools, and of experimental methods; there are also graphs, tables, and diagrams. One of the diagrams is of the frog's nerve-muscle preparation, a reminder of the practical physiology of one's student days. It appears in the description of fatigue, a description which may be taken as a sample of the thorough treatment of all subjects found throughout the book. A precise definition of fatigue is given and explained; the underlying metabolic changes and the effect on the pulse rate are discussed in detail. Methods of demonstrating the onset of fatigue in the movements of workers are described. It is pointed out that the difficulty of measuring fatigue is so great that nowadays efforts are directed to combating it by evolving less exhausting methods of work.

This is a textbook of occupational physiology which is as comprehensive as possible with a subject which is continually undergoing change. References to the literature are given at the end of each chapter. They are mostly of papers in German, but there are references to the work of Vernon, Bedford, and Floyd among English writers, and the journal *Ergonomics* is mentioned.

This volume, although of handy size, is a standard work on the subject.

CHARLES L. SUTHERLAND

L'Intoxication Cyanhydrique et son Traitement. By Georges Paulet. (Pp. 114; 21 figures + 16 tables. 18 NF) Paris: Masson et Cie. 1960.

The story of poisoning by cyanides and prussic acids is a long one, ranging from its use by ancient Egyptian priests for punishing initiates who had betrayed the secrets of their cult to its present-day uses by unsuccessful dictators, spies, and generals, for the purpose of seeking rapid oblivion, and by certain American States to carry out capital punishment. Far greater and more respectable quantities, however, are handled in various industrial processes and in the fumigation of ships, warehouses, and other infested premises. Fortunately, the reported cases