

pale, often haggard and listless (Milroy's cachexia), but now they appeared natural in complexion, robust, and active. In their daily work they were happy and contented; the fear of the dust had gone.

A constant check on respiratory diseases among pottery workers was instituted and maintained by the Mass Radiography Service, Stoke-on-Trent, under Dr. E. Posner. A special survey of china biscuit workers was made between 1952 and 1954. The results accorded with previous experience; all cases of pneumoconiosis which were detected had worked in flint for material periods or had been exposed to other varieties of harmful dust in the pottery industry or elsewhere. Not a single case gave rise to suspicion that alumina *per se* had produced any adverse effect. Another survey by Posner in 1956 (Meiklejohn and Posner, 1957) re-affirmed these findings.

Finally in 1961 enquiries were addressed to the following authorities who have been intimately associated with the problem during the 33 years, 1928-1961: (1) Pottery manufacturers; (2) National Society of Pottery Workers; (3) H.M. Inspectors of Factories; (4) Pneumoconiosis Medical Panels at Stoke-on-Trent and Glasgow; (5) Mass Radiography Unit, Stoke-on-Trent; and (6) British Aluminium Company Limited. Not one of these had knowledge of a single case of pneumoconiosis among workmen exposed to alumina dust, nor had they any evidence that it had caused injury to health. That is the conclusion after 30 years of watchfulness. There may still be sceptics so it is reassuring to be able to announce that as a result of recent experiments by Mr. R. Bentley, manager at Doulton's, Burslem, a new method of china biscuit placing (profile placing), in which the alumina is dispensed with, is now in use at the factory and will in time be introduced into other china manufactories. This is the consummation so devoutly wished, for all dust is dangerous and wasteful.

The preparation of these lectures has extended over 30 years. It is a pleasure to record my gratitude to all who have assisted and collaborated with me throughout this period. A special measure of thanks is due to the directors and managers of The Royal Doulton Potteries, Burslem, to a long line of Inspectors of Factories at Stoke-on-Trent, to my secretary, Miss I. B. Meikle, and to all pottery workers in North Staffordshire.

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#### Note

The original typescripts, extensive notes, excerpts from the literature, photostats, and reprints were bound in a volume entitled *Anthology—Milroy Lectures, 1963*. This was presented to the library of The Royal College of Physicians. A collection of mounted pathological specimens with accompanying radiographs illustrating silicosis in the china bedding and associated processes was presented to the museum of The Royal College of Physicians.

individual, which seems unlikely, one would expect differences in prevalence to be small among young men, to increase with age (and thus dust exposure), remaining large or perhaps diminishing again among the oldest men. Alternatively, it may be the risk of massive fibrosis associated with a given degree of simple pneumoconiosis which depends on the blood group. It may therefore be better in future studies to attempt to distinguish the dose-response curves of groups of men of different blood groups rather than to proceed with further studies of prevalence unrelated to dust exposure.

We are grateful to Drs. N. Pearson and D. C. Morgan, of the National Coal Board, for urging us to analyse the blood groups from the first survey in relation to pneumoconiosis; to Dr. J. A. Fraser Roberts for advising us to

repeat our observations on a larger sample and, together with Professor H. Scarborough, for reading and criticizing the manuscript; to our colleagues at the Pneumoconiosis and Epidemiological Research Units for their help in carrying out the surveys.

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## THE JULY (1963) ISSUE

The July (1963) issue contains the following papers:—

- The Successful Prevention of Lead Poisoning in the Glazing of Earthenware in the North Staffordshire Potteries.** A. MEIKLEJOHN
- Dust and Collagen Content of Lungs of Coal-workers with Progressive Massive Fibrosis.** G. NAGELSCHMIDT, D. RIVERS, E. J. KING, and W. TREVELLA
- Chromate Dermatitis from Paint.** H. O. ENGEL and C. D. CALNAN
- A Cause of Chromate Dermatitis among Assemblers in an Automobile Factory.** MURIEL L. NEWHOUSE
- Studies of Ventilatory Capacity and Histamine Response during Exposure to Isocyanate Vapour in Polyurethane Foam Manufacture.** BRYAN GANDEVIA
- An Account of the Founding of H.M. Inspectorate of Mines and the Work of the First Inspector Hugh Seymour Tremenheere.** O. P. EDMONDS and E. L. EDMONDS
- Silicosis in West Country Granite Workers.** L. W. HALE and G. SHEERS
- Pneumoconiosis in China-clay Workers.** S. WARRAKI and Y. HERANT
- The Reliability of Repeated Auditory Threshold Determination.** G. R. C. ATHERLEY and I. DINGWALL-FORDYCE
- An Autopsy Survey of Bantu South African Coal-miners.** C. B. CHATGIDAKIS
- Changes in Activity of Respiratory Enzymes in Lungs of Guinea-pigs Exposed to Silica Dust.** T. A. KILROE-SMITH and MARIA G. BREYER
- The Collection of Expired Volatile Substances.** J. C. GAGE
- Miscellanea**
- Byssinosis in Great Britain.** A. MEIKLEJOHN
- Book Reviews**

A number of copies are still available and may be obtained from the Publishing Manager, British Medical Association, Tavistock Square, W.C.1. price 18s. 6d.

working environment is then considered in detail, ventilation, heating and lighting as well as ancillary services such as washrooms, canteens, and so on. In connexion with all these matters leaflets for workers and regulations made by the German authorities are quoted in full as they are in later descriptions of hazards to health.

The bulk of the book, some 480 odd pages, is devoted to the specific hazards of employment. One chapter gives details under the heading of the particular agent, such as radiation, dust, and chemicals. A further chapter presents the effects of these on the different systems, skeletal, blood, etc. without any great repetition. With the description of each hazard, first-aid and preventive measures are given along with the relevant German regulations. This part of the book is almost a complete review of industrial accidents, diseases, and toxicology, and as such would make a useful work of reference for non-Germans. The final chapters deal with the regulations regarding health and safety and compensation in both West and East Germany and make it evident that the book is designed mainly for readers in Germany.

A second volume dealing with the special hazards of the most important groups of occupations is being prepared.

CHARLES L. SUTHERLAND

## Notices

### Society of Toxicology

The annual scientific and business meeting of the Society of Toxicology will be held in Williamsburg, Virginia, on March 9, 10, and 11, 1964.

Papers may be submitted or must be sponsored by members of the Society. Additional information about the meeting may be obtained from the Secretary, Carrol S. Weil, Mellon Institute, 4400 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

### University of Manchester

A short intensive course in the Practice of Industrial Medicine will be held in the Department of Occupational

Health from Monday, November 4 to Saturday, November 9, 1963, inclusive. The course is designed to meet the needs of full-time and part-time industrial medical officers. Part-time industrial medical officers who are in General Practice will be able to apply for a Ministry of Health grant under Section 48 of the N.H.S. Act. Numbers will be strictly limited. The registration fee is £12. Applications should be sent to the Secretary, Nuffield Department of Occupational Health, Clinical Sciences Building, York Place, Manchester 13, from whom further particulars can be obtained.

## BOOKS RECEIVED

(Review in a later issue is not precluded by notice here of books recently received.)

**Emergencies in Medical Practice.** By C. Allan Birch. (Pp. 784; 50s.) Edinburgh and London: Livingstone. 1963.

**Control of Hazards in Nuclear Reactors.** By T. C. Sinclair. (Pp. 81; 15s.) Temple Press Books. 1963.

**Compendium of Emergencies.** Ed. H. Gardiner-Hill. (Pp. 328; 55s.) London: Butterworths. 1963.

**The Causation of Bus Driver Accidents.** By W. L. Cresswell and P. Froggatt. (Pp. 298; 45s.) London: Oxford University Press. 1963.

**Footprints on the Sands of Time, 1863-1963.** (Pp. 71) Edinburgh and London: Livingstone. 1963.

**Medical Books 1863-1963.** (Pp. 160) Edinburgh and London: Livingstone. 1963.

**The Biochemistry of Bladder Cancer.** By Eric Boyland. (Pp. 95; 12 figs; \$5.75) Springfield, Illinois: Thomas. 1963.

**The Enterprise and its Environment: A System Theory of Management Organization.** By A. K. Rice. (Pp. 364; with graphs and diagrams; 63s.) London: Tavistock Publications. 1963.

**The Care of Well Children in Day-Care Centres and Institutions.** Report of a Joint U.N./W.H.O. Expert Committee. *Wld Hlth Org. techn. Rep. Ser.* (Pp. 34; 3s. 6d.) Geneva: World Health Organization. 1963.

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