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Papers are accepted on the understanding that they are contributed solely to this journal and are subject to editorial revision. The editor cannot enter into correspondence about papers rejected as being unsuitable for publication, and his decision is final. Papers should follow the requirements of the International Steering Committee of Medical Editors (*Br Med J* 1979;i:532-5). **Papers should be prefaced by an abstract of the argument and findings which should be more comprehensive than a summary. Papers and references must be typewritten on one side of the paper only, both in double spacing, and with a wide margin. Both SI units and their equivalents must be given throughout** (Baron *et al*, *J Clin Pathol* 1974;27:590-7). Photographs and photomicrographs on glossy paper should be submitted unmounted. Charts and graphs should be carefully drawn in black ink on tracing linen or Bristol board or stout white paper. Legends to figures should be typed on a separate sheet of paper.

References will not be checked by the editorial office; responsibility for the accuracy and completeness of references lies with the author. Number references consecutively in the order in which they are first mentioned in the text. Identify references in texts, tables, and legends by Arabic numerals above the line. References cited only in tables or in legends to figures should be numbered in accordance with a sequence established by the first identification in the text of a particular table or illustration. The number of references should be kept to the absolute minimum and only those essential to the argument being developed by the authors or to the discussion or if they describe methods which are being used

when the original is too long for inclusion. Usually one reference per typed page of manuscript should be sufficient.

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Correspondence and editorials

The *British Journal of Industrial Medicine* welcomes correspondence relating to any of the material appearing in the journal. Results from preliminary or small scale studies may also be published in the correspondence column if this seems appropriate. Letters should be not more than 500 words in length and contain a minimum of references. Table and figures should be kept to an absolute minimum. Letters are accepted on the

understanding that they may be subject to editorial revision and shortening.

The journal now also publishes editorials which are normally specially commissioned. The Editor welcomes suggestions regarding suitable topics; those wishing to submit an editorial, however, should do so only after discussion with the Editor.

- Release of eicosanoids from white blood cells, platelets, smooth muscle cells, and endotoxin and A 23187. *Circ Shock* 1986;20:25-34.
- 13 Rylander R, Beijer L. Inhalation of endotoxin stimulates alveolar macrophage production of platelet-activating factor. *Am Rev Respir Dis* 1987;135:83-5.
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Destruction of manuscripts

From 1 July 1985 articles submitted for publication will not be returned. Authors whose papers are rejected will be advised of the decision and the manuscripts will be kept under security for three months to deal with any inquiries and then destroyed.

specific exposure to toluene. It is uncertain whether dysmenorrhoea is associated specifically with exposure to toluene as many other personal and work related factors were also likely to influence menstrual function.

We thank the management and staff of the factory and the staff and patients at the maternal and child health services of the Ministry of Health for their co-operation, and Dr M M Thein, Ms Ng Yuen Ling, and Julie Tan for their assistance in the study.

Requests for reprints to: Dr T P Ng, Department of Community, Occupational, and Family Medicine, National University of Singapore, Lower Kent Ridge, Singapore 0511.

- 1 Michon S. Disturbances of menstruation in women working in an atmosphere polluted with aromatic hydrocarbons. *Polski Lekarski* 1965;20,44:1648-9.
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Vancouver style

All manuscripts submitted to the *Br J Ind Med* should conform to the uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals (known as the Vancouver style).

The *Br J Ind Med*, together with many other international biomedical journals, has agreed to accept articles prepared in accordance with the Vancouver style. The style (described in full in *Br Med J*, 24 February 1979, p 532) is intended to standardise requirements for authors.

References should be numbered consecutively in the order in which they are first mentioned in the text by Arabic numerals above the line on each occasion the reference is cited (Manson¹ confirmed other reports²⁻⁵ . . .). In future references to papers submitted to the *Br J Ind Med* should include: the

names of all authors if there are six or less or, if there are more, the first three followed by *et al*; the title of journal articles or book chapters; the titles of journals abbreviated according to the style of *Index Medicus*; and the first and final page numbers of the article or chapter.

Examples of common forms of references are:

- 1 International Steering Committee of Medical Editors. Uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals. *Br Med J* 1979;1:532-5.
- 2 Soter NA, Wasserman SI, Austen KF. Cold urticaria: release into the circulation of histamine and eosino-phil chemotactic factor of anaphylaxis during cold challenge. *N Engl J Med* 1976;294:687-90.
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Agriculture and multiple myeloma among men and women in eastern Nebraska

Agricultural factor	Men			Women		
	Cases	Controls	OR (95% CI)*	Cases	Controls	OR (95% CI)*
Non-farmers	11	184	1.0	7	235	1.0
Ever lived or worked on a farm	20	539	0.6 (0.2-1.3)	33	471	2.2 (0.9-5.6)
Used insecticides	11	321	0.6 (0.2-1.4)	21	245	2.8 (1.1-7.3)
Used herbicides	8	203	0.6 (0.2-1.7)	10	149	2.3 (0.8-7.0)

*OR (95% CI) = Odds ratio (95% confidence interval) adjusted by age.

multiple myeloma associated with employment in agriculture found relative risks of 0.8 for men and 1.7 for women. Men and women employed in agriculture for longer than five years had relative risks of 1.0 and 2.0 respectively.⁴ Also, we recently evaluated the proportionate mortality ratio (PMR) of farmers from 23 American states and found that the risk of multiple myeloma was slightly greater among women (PMR=1.8) than men (PMR=1.2).⁵ This differential was particularly strong (women, PMR=2.6, men, PMR=1.2) in the central United States, which is heavily agricultural. Other relevant published studies of multiple myeloma are restricted to men only or, like those of Eriksson and Karlsson,⁶ present risk estimates for men and women combined. Although the sex difference in our study may reflect chance, the excess risk of multiple myeloma in women deserves further investigation and points out the need to examine disease risks separately for men and women.

SHELIA HOAR ZAHM

AARON BLAIR

Occupational Studies Section,
Environmental Epidemiology Branch,
National Cancer Institute,
Rockville, MD, USA

DENNIS D WEISENBURGER

Department of Pathology and Microbiology,
University of Nebraska Medical Centre,
Omaha, NE, USA

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ease Registry (ATSDR).

In addition to the invited presentations, opportunities are available to present posters with the same general theme. An objective of the Conference is to begin to develop recommendations concerning the monitoring of the health of individuals exposed to toxic chemicals.

Details may be obtained from KIM, Mauerkircherstrasse 4, D-8000 Munchen 80, Germany.

**Australia and New Zealand
Society of Occupational
Medicine (ANZSOM) annual
scientific meeting.
Bali, 3-8 April 1993**

NOTICES

**Arnold O Beckman International
Federation of Clinical Chemistry
European Conference.
Munich, Germany,
16-18 June 1993**

The first Arnold O Beckman/IFCC European conference on the impact of environmental chemicals on human health will consider biomarkers of chemical exposure. The conference is organised by the International Federation of Clinical Chemistry in cooperation with the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Commission of the European Community (EEC), the International Programme on Chemical Safety (IPCS), Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Dis-

The main topics to be covered are occupational health in the tropics; diseases of travellers (in the tropics); ergonomics; legal aspects of Occupational Health.

The ANZSOM is a group of doctors interested in Occupational Health, not just those who limit their practice to Occupational Health. It has members in several countries in south east Asia and by holding the meeting in Bali seeks to strengthen ties with countries in the region.

The scientific meeting is open to all interested in occupational health. Papers are welcomed in any of the four broad areas designated above. Colleagues, whether members or not, are welcomed.

Papers should be submitted to, and further information obtained from: Associate Professor P S Hollingworth, PO Box 1039, Nedlands, 6009, Perth, Western Australia.