As part of the 50th birthday celebration, we are arranging to reprint 12 papers, *the Editor's Choice*, which have appeared in previous issues of the *Journal*. They have been chosen partly to illustrate the range and scope of the *Journal* over the years and partly because they are or were important in their day. More significantly, they have been chosen because they exemplify some of the best in scientific writing and can all be read with great pleasure and all who wish to communicate their observations, their ideas, or their enthusiasms would do well to study them and learn from them.

We will publish one paper each month through the year and they will appear in the order in which they were originally published.

Editor's Choice

Air pollution in a city street

by R E Waller, B T Commins, and P J Lawther

(*British Journal of Industrial Medicine* 1965;22:128–38)

This paper is included in the series to exemplify the excellent work carried out by Pat Lawther and his colleagues at the MRC Air Pollution Research Unit at St Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College. (It may not have escaped the notice of readers how many of these papers have emanated from units now sadly closed.) Lawther made a remarkable contribution to the understanding of the effects of air pollution by sulphur dioxide and the symptoms of chronic bronchitis and showed how much things improved after the burning of coal in domestic fires had been prohibited.

Lawther is one of the nicest men it has been my pleasure to be associated with; he is fair and open-minded, extremely kind, cultured and a delightful companion, especially over a pint of beer. His lectures were outstandingly memorable and usually extremely funny but it was astonishing to see how nervous he was, even before addressing an undergraduate audience, knowing how consummate a performer he was.

This paper describes the levels of pollution from motor vehicles in Fleet Street and among the pollutants measured was lead, "mainly as an indicator of pollution from motor vehicles." It is ironic that Lawther went on to say that he and his colleagues "do not consider that the 3·2 $\mu g/m^3$. . . constitutes an appreciable hazard to health" bearing in mind the furore which burst out in the 1970s and in which he became involved as the result of his chairing a committee set up by the then Department of Health and Social Security to examine the relation between lead and health. Lawther was a wonderful chairman of that committee, of which I was a member, and he conducted the proceedings skilfully and with an impartiality that his critics would have been unable to fault. The conclusion of that committee was that air-borne lead contributed considerably less to the body burden than did other sources such as food and water and probably had but a marginal effect on health. While he welcomes any reduction in lead in the environment (as was the strongly expressed view of the committee) I doubt whether he would wish to change that conclusion now.

Research 1991;17:971–84.
48 Spurzem JM, Saltini C, Rom W, Winchester RJ, Crystal RG. Mechanisms of macrophage accumulation in the lung of asbestos exposed subjects. *Am Rev Respir Dis* 1987; **136**:276–80.
49 Bisson G, Drapeau G, Lamoureux G, Bégin R. Computer-based quantitative analysis of Gallium-67 uptake in normal and diseased lungs. *Chest* 1983;**84**:513–7.
50 Bisson G, Lamoureux G, Bégin R. Quantitative Gallium-67 lung scan to assess the inflammatory activity in the pneumoconioses. *Semin Nucl Med* 1987;17:72–80.
51 Hayes AA, Mullen B, Lovegrove F, Rose AH, Musk AW, Robinson BWS. Gallium lung scanning and bronchoalveolar lavage in crocidolite-exposed workers. *Chest* 1989; **96**:22–6.
52 Harber P, Smitherman J. Asbestosis: diagnostic dilution. *J Occup Med* 1991;33:786–93.
53 Craighead JE, Vallyathan NV. Cryptic pulmonary lesions in workers occupationally exposed to dust containing silica. *JAMA* 1980;**244**:1939–41.
54 Bellamy EA, Husband JE, Blaquiere RM, Law MR. Bleomycin-related lung damage: CT evidence. *Radiology* 1985;**156**:155–8.

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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 (Manson[1] confirmed other reports[2–5] . . .). 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 J Ind Med* 1979;1:532–5.
2 Soter NA, Wasserman SI, Austen KF. Cold urticaria: release into the circulation of histamine and eosinophil chemotactic factor of anaphylaxis during cold challenge. *N Engl J Med* 1976;**294**:687–90.
3 Weinstein L, Swartz MN. Pathogenic properties of invading micro-organisms. In: Soderman WA Jr, Soderman WA, eds. *Pathologic physiology, mechanisms of disease.* Philadelphia: W B Saunders, 1974:457–72.

21 Held JL, Sassa S, Kappas A, Harber LC. Erythrocyte uroporphyrinogen decarboxylase activity in porphyria cutanea tarda—a study of 40 consecutive patients. *J Invest Dermatol* 1989;**93**:332–4.
22 Crow KD. Chloracne. *Transactions of St John's Hospital Dermatological Society* 1970;**56**:79–90.
23 McNulty WP, Nielsen-Smith KA, Lay JO, Lippstreu DL, Kangas NL, Lyon PA, Gross ML. Persistence of TCDD in monkey adipose tissue. *Fd Chem Toxic* 1982;**20**:985–987.
24 Hayes WJ, Laws ER. *Handbook of pestcide toxicology*. New York: Academic Press, 1991; 734.
25 Moses M, Prioleau PG. Cutaneous histologic findings in chemical workers with and without chloracne with past exposure to 2, 3, 7, 8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin. *J Am Acad Dermatol* 1985;**12**:497–506.
26 Suskind RR, Hertzberg VS. Human health effects of 2, 4, 5-T and its toxic contaminants. *JAMA* 1984;**251**:2372–80.
27 Schwartz S, Edmondson P, Stephenson B, Sarkar D, Freyholtz H. Direct spectrofluorophotometric determination of porphyrin in diluted urine. *Annals of Clinical Research* 1976;**8**:156–61.
28 Chiba M, Sassa S. Analysis of porphyrin carboxylic acids in biological fluids by high performance liquid chromatography. *Anal Biochem* 1982;**124**:279–85.
29 Sassa S, de Verneuil H, Anderson KE, Kappas A. Purification and properties of human erythrocyte uroporphyrinogen decarboxylase: immunological demonstration of the enzyme defect in porphyria cutanea tarda. *Trans Assoc Am Physicians* 1983;**96**:65–75.
30 Rimington C. Investigation of porphyria. *Qualitative tests*. Association of Clinical Pathologists Broadsheet No 20. November, 1958.
31 Smith SG. The use of thin layer chromatography in the separation of free porphyrins and porphyrin methyl esters. *Br J Dermatol* 1975;**93**:291–5.

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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.

22 Bulska E, Emteborg H, Baxter DC, Frech W, Ellingsen D, Thomassen Y. Speciation of mercury in human whole blood by capillary gas chromatography with a microwave-induced plasma emission detector system following complexometric extraction and butylation. *Analyst* 1992;**117**:657–63.
23 Andersen A, Ellingsen DG, Mørland T, Kjuus H. A neurological and neurophysiological study of chloralkali workers previously exposed to mercury vapour. *Acta Neurol Scand* 1993 (submitted).
24 Cherian MG, Hursh JB, Clarkson TW, Allen J. Radioactive mercury distribution in biological fluids and excretion in human subjects after inhalation of mercury vapour. *Arch Environ Health* 1978;**33**:109–114.
25 Ringstad J, Fønnebø V. The Tromsø heart study: Serum selenium in a low-risk population for cardiovascular disease and cancer and matched controls. *Ann Clin Res* 1987;**19**:351–4.
26 Jokstad A, Thomassen Y, Bye E, Clench-Aase J, Aaseth J. Dental amalgam and mercury. *Pharmacol Toxicol* 1992:**70**;308–13.
27 Barber TE, Wallis G. Correction of urinary mercury concentration by specific gravity, osmolality, and creatinine. *J Occup Med* 1986;**28**:354–9.
28 Wallis G, Barber T. Variability in urinary mercury excretion. *J Occup Med* 1982;**24**:590–5.
29 Ringstad J, Jacobsen BK, Thomassen Y. The Tromsø heart study: Relationships between the concentration of selenium in serum and risk factors for coronary heart disease. *Journal of Trace Elements and Electrolytes in Health and Disease* 1987;**1**:27–31.
30 Thorngren M, Åkesson B. Effect of dietary fish on plasma selenium and its relation to haemostatic changes in healthy adults. *Int J Vitam Nutr Res* 1987;**57**:429–35.
31 Ellis N, Lloyd B, Lloyd RS, Clayton BE. Selenium and vitamin E in relation to risk factors for coronary heart disease. *J Clin Pathol* 1984;**37**:200–6.
32 Lourdes MA, Cuvin-Aralar A, Furness RW. Mercury and selenium interaction: A review. *Ecotoxicol Environ Safety* 1991;**21**:348–64.

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manufacturing = 0·03, paper or pulp mill = 0·10, textiles = 0·26, foundry = 0·29, smelter = 0·03). While the very small number of cases limits the ability to identify significant associations, these data offer no support for the hypothesis that occupational exposure to formaldehyde increases the risk of melanoma of the nose or nasopharynx.

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1 Vaughan T, Strader C, Davis S, Daling JR. Formaldehyde and cancers of the pharynx, sinus and nasal cavity: I. Occupational exposures. *Int J Cancer* 1986;**38**:677–83.
2 Vaughan T, Strader C, Davis S, Daling JR. Formaldehyde and cancers of the pharynx, sinus, and nasal cavity: II. Residential exposures. *Int J Cancer* 1986;**38**:685–8.

NOTICE

A + A 93, 20th International Trade Fair for Industrial Safety and Occupational Health with Congress and Meeting Point Safety, Düsseldorf 26–29 October 1993.

This year has seen a clear rise in the demand for exhibition space—26 130 m² net exhibition space has been reserved so far. In 1991 625 exhibitors took part in the event covering an exhibition area of 26 422 m².

A + A 93, which will once again be taking on the tried and tested formula of trade fair, congress, and meeting point safety, will be taking place in halls 1–6 at the Düsseldorf Trade Fair Centre. The 23rd Congress for Industrial Safety and Occupational Health will be staged in the Messe Congress Centres south and east. Experts from all over the world are expected to attend the series of 44 lectures featuring 200 speakers.

The international appeal of the Congress is being promoted in 1993 by its organisers BASI, Düsseldorf (German Institute for Industrial Safety). With its new series of lectures, "A + A International", the event aims to target corporate and supracorporate industrial safety experts throughout Europe. The lectures will be simultaneously interpreted in German and English.

The focus of A + A Europe Day on 27 October 1993 will be the "European Résumé Congress of the European Year for Industrial Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work". Raporteurs from various European countries will be presenting important results related to this event which drew to a close in February.

EC Commissioner Padraig Flynn will be discussing "Prospects for Industrial Safety in Europe. The conference languages will be German, English, French, and Spanish.

For further information contact: A+A 93 Press Office, Manuela Preinbergs. Tel: +49 211 4560–542.