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A means for measuring controllable and uncontrollable absence separately is proposed in Miss Behrend's study of absence. Her investigation revealed that a given plant or department seems to have a characteristic and persistent weekly pattern. She suggests that it should take its Friday-rate as the measure of the uncontrollable absence specific to it, and the excess of absence on other days as the measure of controllable absence. She discusses also the significance of a "Blue Monday" index.

Each monograph includes what evidence there is for the difference between recent working and that of the interwar years. The evidence is scanty but it shows less difference than common report suggests.

MARGARET H. WILTON

Phosphate Ester Poisoning, a New Problem for the Internist.

Because of their exceptional effectiveness as agricultural insecticides, several esters of phosphoric acid have been manufactured and applied on an expanding scale. In this article the authors stress the need for intelligent control in their handling and use. They maintain that in skilled hands, these insecticides have done an important job and should continue to do so safely until the day arrives when a truly less toxic but equally effective insecticide can be found. Special reference is made to paraoxon. A number of parathion poisonings, several of them fatal, have already occurred in this country. The safety record, however, has improved, with expanding knowledge of the biologic properties of the material and of the necessary protective measures.

The authors outline briefly the history of the discovery of the cholinesterase-inhibiting action of certain phosphate esters and, directions for their use. Where sprays or dusts have been applied according to schedules approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, there has been no problem with respect to residue toxicity. Mention is made also of the so-called nerve gases. Details are given also regarding the pharmacology of the group as a whole. With regard to mode of action, no clearcut indications of any action other than that on the cholinesterase enzyme system have yet been available from published reports of animal experiments or human experience.

The signs and symptoms of phosphate ester poisoning, as observed in man, have included giddiness, headache, confusion, weakness, nausea, vomiting, cramps, diarrhea, sweating, pupillary constriction, occasionally an irregular pulse, and, often a sense of constriction in the chest. Absorption through the skin is rapid although no topical actions on the skin except local warmth and sweating, have occurred. Symptoms develop only during, or within a few hours of, exposure and subside completely within a day or two. There is, however, a danger from repeated small exposures and from new exposures during convalescence from a previous poisoning.

In order to prevent accidental poisoning, meticulous attention to protective measures against skin contact or inhalation of airborne sprays, is required. Should there be even a remote risk of exposure as in manufacturing or spray operations, a regular testing schedule for plasma and red cell samples is also essential.

When acute poisoning does occur, the problem of effective therapy is urgent and immediate as the outcome may be determined in a matter of hours or even minutes. The specific antidote is atropine, given at once, by any convenient route and in large amounts. Dosage and general supportive measures are given. The authors stress the importance of a readily accessible supply of atropine with proper directions for emergency use, for the safety of workers handling these materials. They caution, however, against the prophylactic use or other misuse of such supplies. Any man taking atropine prior to risking exposure may thereby deprive himself of the warning symptoms which might otherwise permit the timely application of therapeutic measures.

MARGARETH WILTON

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

CANADA

CANADIAN SOCIETY OF MICROBIOLOGISTS, Annual Meeting, Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, Ont. (Dr. N. E. Gibbons, Division of Applied Biology, National Research Council, Ottawa 2, Ont.) June 4-6, 1953.

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICAL MEDICINE, Annual Meeting, Oslar Hall of the Academy of Medicine, Toronto, Ont. June 5, 1953.

THE SOCIETY OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNECOLOGISTS OF CANADA, Annual Meeting, The Thousand Island Club, Alexandria Bay, N.Y. (Dr. G. A. Simpson, Secretary, Maternity Pavilion, Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal) June 5-7, 1953.

CANADIAN UROLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, Annual Meeting, Minski Lodge, Ont. (Dr. S. A. MacDonald, Secretary, 1414 Drummond St., Montreal) June 10-12, 1953.

CANADIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, Annual Meeting, Royal Alexandra Hotel, Winnipeg, Man. (Dr. T. C. Routley, 135 St. Clair Ave. W., Toronto 5, Ont.) June 15-19, 1953.

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF RADIOLOGISTS, Winnipeg, Man. (Dr. Jean Bouchard, Secretary, 1555 Summerhill Ave., Montreal 25, Que.) June 15-16, 1953.

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF PATHOLOGISTS, Winnipeg, Man. (Dr. D. W. Penner, Secretary, Winnipeg General Hospital, Winnipeg, Man.) June 15-16, 1953.

CANADIAN RHEUMATISM ASSOCIATION, Winnipeg, Man. (Dr. T. E. Hunt, Secretary, P.O. Box 277, Regina, Sask.) June 15-16, 1953.

CANADIAN ACADEMY OF ALLERGY, Winnipeg, Man. (Dr. T. H. Aaron, Secretary, 502 McLeod Bldg., Edmonton, Alta.) June 16, 1953.

CANADIAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION, Winnipeg, Man. (Dr. J. P. S. Cathcart, Secretary, 183 Metcalfe St., Ottawa, Ont.) June 16, 1953.

CANADIAN HEART ASSOCIATION, Winnipeg, Man. (Dr. John Keith, Secretary, Hospital for Sick Children, 555 University Ave., Toronto, Ont.) June 16, 1953.

CANADIAN MEDICAL PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION, Winnipeg, Man. (Dr. T. L. Fisher, Secretary, 180 Metcalfe St., Ottawa, Ont.) June 18, 1953.

THE FEDERATION OF MEDICAL WOMEN OF CANADA, Winnipeg, Man. (Dr. J. G. Bellamy, Secretary, 2455-29th Ave. S. W., Calgary, Alta.) in June but dates still uncertain.

CANADIAN NEUROLOGICAL SOCIETY, Winnipeg, Man. (Dr. Allan Walters, Secretary, Medical Arts Bldg., Toronto, Ont.) June 20-21, 1953.

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION OF X-RAY TECHNICIANS, Royal York Hotel, Toronto, Ont. (Miss Beatrice Hurley, R.T., Registrar, St. Catherine Hospital, East Chicago, Indiana) June 29-July 2, 1953.

INTERNATIONAL PHYSIOLOGICAL CONGRESS, 19th Congress, Montreal, Canada (Miss MacCallum, Donner Bldgs., McGill University, Montreal), September 1-5, 1953.

BRITISH COLUMBIA DIVISION, C.M.A., Annual Meeting, Vancouver, B.C. (Dr. G. Gordon Ferguson, Exec. Secretary, 1807 West 10th Ave., Vancouver, B.C.) September 21-25, 1953.
CONGRESS OF ANESTHESIOLOGISTS, 28th Annual Congress, Chateau Frontenac, Quebec, P.Q., (Laurette McMechan, Assistant Executive Secretary, 318 Hotel Westlake, Rocky River 16, Ohio) October 26-29, 1953.

UNITED STATES

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, Annual Session, New York, N.Y. (Dr. George F. Lull, 535 N. Dearborn St., Chicago 10, Ill.) June 1-5, 1953.

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF CARDIOLOGY, 2nd Annual Convention, Hotel Statler, Washington, D.C. (Dr. Philip Reichert, Secretary, 480 Park Ave., New York 22, N.Y.) June 7-9, 1953.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF ELECTROENCEPHALOGRAPHY AND CLINICAL NEUROPHYSIOLOGY, Boston, Mass. (Dr. R. S. Schwab, Secretary-General, Mass. General Hospital, Boston 14, Mass.) August 18-21, 1953.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF OPHTHALMOLOGY, 17th Congress, Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York City, N.Y. (Dr. W. L. Benedict, Secretary General, 100-1st Ave. Bldg., Rochester, Minn.) September 12-17, 1953.


NATIONAL GASTROENTEROLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, 15th Annual Convention, Los Angeles, Calif. (Dr. Samuel Weiss, 146 Central Park West, New York 23, N.Y.) October 12-14, 1953.

OTHER COUNTRIES

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF OTORHINOLARYNGOLOGY, 5th Congress, Amsterdam, Holland (Dr. W. H. Struben, J. J. Viottastraat 1, Amsterdam) June 8-15, 1953.


BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, Cardiff, S. Wales (Dr. A. MacCrate, Secretary, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, London W. C. 1, England) July 13-17, 1953.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF RADIO-BIOLOGY, Copenhagen, Denmark (Prof. F. Norgaard, Secretary General, Oster Voldgade 10, Copenhagen K, Denmark) July 14-25, 1953.


INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF RADIOLOGY, 7th Congress, Copenhagen, Denmark (Prof. F. Norgaard, Oster Voldgade, Copenhagen K) July 19-25, 1953.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON MEDICAL LIBRARIANSHIP, First Congress, London, England (Mr. W. R. Le Fanu, Chairman, c/o London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel St., London, W.C.1), July 20-25, 1953.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS FOR HISTORY OF SCIENCE, Jerusalem, Israel (Prof. F. S. Bodenheimer, President, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel) August 3-7, 1953.


INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF TROPICAL MEDICINE AND MALARIA, Istanbul, Turkey (Prof. Dr. Ihsan Siikerr Aksel, General Secretary, Tunel Meydanim, Beyogu, Istanbul, Turkey) August 28-September 4, 1953.

WORLD MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, 7th General Assembly, The Hague, Amsterdam, Holland (Dr. Louis H. Bauer, Secretary-General, 2 East 103rd St., New York 29, N.Y.) August 31-September 6, 1953.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF MICROBIOLOGY, 6th Congress, Rome, Italy (Dr. N. E. Gibbons, Secretary, Canadian Society of Microbiology, Division of Applied Biology, National Research Council, Ottawa 2, Ont.) September 6-12, 1953.


INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF SURGERY, Congress, Lisbon, Portugal. (Dr. L. Dejardin, General Secretary, rue Belliard, Brussels, Belgium) September 14-20, 1953.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF PEDIATRICS, Havana, Cuba (Prof. Felix Hurtado, President, 5a Avenue 124, Miramar, Havana, Cuba) October 12-17, 1953.

NEWS ITEMS

ALBERTA

Dr. A. B. King of Vermilion attended the University Hospital surgical rounds before returning to his active practice in the former town.

The May issue of the Alberta Medical Bulletin is the Coronation number which is in keeping with the crowning of Queen Elizabeth II on June 2, 1953. Special articles have been written showing the relationship of Royalty and the medical profession through the years. The Editorial Board wish to thank those authors who contributed to this issue.

The members of the medical profession in Alberta join with the rest of Canada in wishing Queen Elizabeth II and her Consort the Duke of Edinburgh long life and happiness during Her Majesty’s reign.

The Calgary hospitals have accepted a goodly number of interns this spring. There is much valuable experience and knowledge to be obtained at these hospitals which are staffed with excellent teachers and fully qualified doctors. This move has decreased the number who generally remain in Edmonton hospitals; thus the ever-changing face of medicine is evident, which is all to the good.

Dr. Guy Morton of Edmonton has returned from a sojourn to California for a month. Dr. Morton heads the Department of Neurosurgery at the University hospital.

W. C. WHITSIDEBRITISH COLUMBIA

The Council of the College of Physicians and Surgeons held their biennial election in April, to replace those members whose four-year term was up.

The retiring members were Drs. George Davidson and D. H. Williams of Vancouver, Dr. A. C. Nash of Victoria, and Dr. F. M. Auld of Nelson. Elected in 1951 for four