

LEAD POISON MOST PREVALENT OF ALL INDUSTRIAL DISEASES

Exists From Beginning of Use of Lead; Russia Leads in Combating the Effects of the Disease; Painters Most Subject to It; Causes Form of Paralysis; W here Lead May Produce Evil.

Industrial development means progress. A country rich in industries is rich in wealth, rich in culture and usually becomes a great political world power and gradually assumes the attitude of a tone-giver to other nations. At the present moment imperialistic England is the most industrial country and politically plays first fiddle at the concert of nations. Russia, being the least industrial and greatly in need of industrial products, is compelled to dance to England's tune.

Russia Leads.
To the casual observer it would seem that the sum total of happiness and material wellbeing should be greater in England than in any other country, England being the most industrial. This opinion is correct when judged from a national standpoint, from a standpoint of national power and wealth—but from an individual standpoint the English laborer and miner is not much happier or healthier than even the Russian—in fact, in a great number of instances he is more miserable.

With the blessings of wealth, which is the result of industrial development, comes the curse of labor slavery, bodily injuries through industrial accidents, and disease caused by dangerous occupations. Society becomes divided into two distinct classes—the possessing and happy one and the needy, laboring and miserable one. At the height of industrial development the acuteness of occupational disease, becomes more pronounced. With such new industry develop new diseases, characteristic of that industry.

Not a New Disease.
Of all industrial diseases lead poisoning stands out prominently as the most typical of the entire group, also being the oldest. Lead poisoning is not a new disease. It has existed from time immemorial. During the period of the greatness of the Roman Empire it almost assumed the proportions of a national disease. The famous Roman architect, Vitruvius, the builder of the large aqueducts of Rome, used lead pipes for the distribution of water. He also was the first one to discover that water going through lead pipes will invariably cause lead poisoning, when used for drinking purposes.

It is interesting to mention that lead poisoning in England had its origin with the invasion by the Roman Legions. England's lead mines date thousands of years back. When Caesar's hordes invaded the island of the north, which is now known as England, they utilized its lead to make pipes for the conveyance of water. Even today one may find relics of hand-beaten lead pipes in these ancient Roman camps near Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Known as Plumbism.
Lead poisoning is sometimes called plumbism, or lead colic. The sources of lead poisoning are usually industrial, but very often they are also accidental. The greatest source of accidental lead poisoning is the lead water-pipe. In places where water is derived from peaty soil its lead solvent properties are marked hence the dangers of lead poisoning. It is not so much the amount of lead consumed at one time that is dangerous as its daily absorption of small quantities, which is the case with drinking lead solvent water.

Water standing overnight in lead pipes has a tendency to dissolve some of the lead; therefore, it is advisable to turn on the tap for a few minutes every morning before the water is used for drinking.

Food in tin cans is very often a source of lead poisoning. Pineapple and salmon have a tendency to attack the lead present in the solder of

the tin and thereby depositing the lead in the food. The modern canning industries seal the cans without lead. Industrial lead poisoning is very prevalent.

Lead is used in some form or other in more than a hundred different industries, beginning with lead mining and smelting of lead ore and ending with the finished products such as different paints, wall paper, linotype metal, cosmetics, calico, etc. etc.

How it Starts.
I will mention just a few of the many sources of industrial lead poisoning.

Lead mining is not so dangerous as the smelting of it. When the lead is still in the ore it is in the form of sulphide, which is very insoluble. During the smelting, fumes are given off which are rich in lead. When the fumes are not drawn in the hearths the laborers are bound to inhale some of the lead. The greatest danger the smelter runs is the cleaning of the fumes, hence the great danger of absorption of some of it.

Lead, before it is refined, contains silver, and quite often gold. A high temperature is required for this process of refining, and workmen at such furnaces run a great danger of plumbism.

During the period of five years, 1907-1912, 77 smelters in South Wales became victims of lead poisoning.

Of all different form of lead, white lead is the most dangerous. Many in England. The total number of cases of lead poisoning in England during the period of 1900-1912 was 8523. Of these 394 died of the disease. In other words, 4.5 of the cases are fatal. Plumbism among painters of motor cars is very marked.

House painters suffer from plumbism mostly through inhaling the dust given off during sand papering or during the burning off of the old paint preparatory to repainting.

During the years 1900-1909 in England 1973 painters took sick with lead poisoning. Of that number 380 died. Paralysis of the hands and fingers is rather common among house painters.

In France 8 per cent of all painters show paralysis; in Austria, 14.5 per cent; in England, 22.7 per cent.

In the United States plumbism in one form or another is found in 16.6 per cent of all painters. One to every six painters is a victim of lead poisoning.

Diagnosis, prevention and treatment of lead poisoning will be presented in the coming articles.

WHO'S YOUR FRIEND?
A short time ago a London newspaper offered a prize for the best definition of "A Friend." Among the many thousand answers which were received, the one that was awarded the first prize was:

"The first person who comes in when the world goes out."
The second prize was given to the definition sent in by a small boy, who wrote:

"A friend is a fellow who knows all about you and likes you just the same."
The "open shop" is closed to members of labor unions and is an attempt to crush organized labor.

MADE GOOD RECORD IN STATE LEGISLATURE



Geo. O. Lockhart.
Mr. Lockhart, the labor member of the legislature from Duluth, made a good record at the last session and will be urged to make the run again at the next election. He is treasurer of the local lodge of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, which organization is giving a grand ball at the Shrine Auditorium the evening of Labor Day.

STILL GETTING RESULTS.
"You used to trade horses."
"I'm tradin' flivvers now," said the rural wizard.

"Do you get the same excitement out of it?"
"Sure. I swapped flivvers with a fellow only yesterday. When he tried to run the car I traded him you could a-heard him bellerin' from here to Squirrel Creek, an' that's twenty miles away."

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CAN EDISON TELL WHO WROTE "OLD BLACK JOE"

By MUNROE REED.
Along the Bowery I walked, wondering whether the great Thomas A. Edison himself could answer three questions without refreshing his mind beforehand. Suppose I asked him, "Who wrote 'Ole Black Joe'?" Where was it written? Under what circumstances did the old darkey Joe begin his enviable career?"

The Bowery is inseparable from New York City; we all know odds and ends of one sort or another about the Bowery. But how many people, either passing along the Bowery or walking up Fifth avenue or Riverside drive, are acquainted with the fact that "Ole Black Joe," the wonderful old darkey song with the pathetic refrain, "I'm comin', I'm comin'," was thought out, created and set to music at No. 15 Bowery—a lonely, hungry, poverty-stricken genius named Stephen Collins Foster?

I listened to the thundering elevated overhead; I smiled at the electric trolleys, the big motor trucks, the automobiles, and I tried to think back to the Civil war days when homeless, comfortless Steve Foster roamed the Bowery and peddled songs for a few

dollars. And here was No. 15, where he spent his last few days before he died, forlorn, unknown, at Bellevue hospital.

A REASON.
Little Ikey, on the sidewalk in front of his home, with one foot extended, was strenuously endeavoring to defend himself from the blows of several little ruffians who were "beating him up." His lusty cries and yells brought his father's head to the window.
"Come queek, Ikey, into de house. Run away from de bad boys queek."
"I can't fader, I can't!"
"Queek, I say, into de house."
"I can't, fader, I can't, I say. I got my foot on a nigle!"

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