

sibly owing to the subtle ways in which the poison gains unsuspected entrance into the system. There may be repeated exposure to danger which does not reveal itself until a careful investigation is made. It is sometimes almost impossible to detect the presence of the gas and to determine what part it plays in symptoms of malaise. Even small percentages of carbon monoxide become a menace to health when the intoxication takes a chronic form. For this reason, if no other, every source of poisoning with this gas should be ascertained when possible. That carbon monoxide can arise in connection with cooking by gas has been demonstrated anew by Meyer. Whenever a gas flame comes into contact with cold surfaces the possibility of imperfect combustion arises, and the products will include more or less carbon monoxide. Conditions for this are found in the arrangement of many of the gas water heaters that have attained considerable popularity in recent years. Complaints of headache and mild symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning are sometimes presented by kitchen or laundry workers who are accustomed to remain in poorly ventilated rooms containing modern household devices of the sort referred to. The institution of suitable hoods and drafts is an essential part of any larger outfit of such gas heating appliances. The danger of combustion gas poisoning is thereby averted. The gas engine and the gasoline motor have also brought with them the unanticipated possibility of inducing intoxication from carbon monoxide. Whenever the explosion of the combustible mixture is incomplete or of moderated intensity, this gas may be formed in not inconsiderable amounts. Outdoors this is of little consequence; but indoors carbon monoxide as well as other combustion gases of the omnipresent motor may produce dangerous contamination of the atmosphere. This should now be widely recognized in the interests of hygiene.

—J. A. M. A.

THE DANGERS OF RUBBER MANUFACTURE

The rubber industry in the United States is important, employing tens of thousands of men and women, and increasing continually. Whether or not it is attended with risk to the health of those engaged in it, and is to be classed as a dangerous trade, most of us would be unable to say. In Germany and France it is considered a decidedly dangerous trade, and many cases of poisoning from carbon disulphide used in vulcanizing rubber are recorded in the literature of those countries. In one rubber manufacturing city, Leipzig, Landenheimer, found fifty cases of carbon