As we have said, the question of the health of workers is of the utmost concern, not only to the workers themselves, but to the community at large. It is obviously false economy and bad policy to avoid taking precautions to guard the health of workers because it costs something. Viewed even from the purely selfish standpoint, it is not economical in the long run. The good health of the people is the greatest national asset, for if disease is engendered and its progress encouraged by the neglect of the laws of health, like a boomerang it will strike those responsible for the conditions and in time will undermine the health of most of the inhabitants. If disease flourishes man will decay and the nation of which he is a part will disintegrate and come to naught. Therefore laws should be made and strictly carried into effect which are best calculated to conserve the health of the workers. The Public Health Service is doing good work in this direction, and its efforts should be forwarded by the authorities that be.—*Med. Rec.*

THE TOXICITY OF ARSENOUS AND ARSENIC ACIDS

Compounds of arsenic are becoming so prominent in therapy, and the types of arsenic products for use in medicine have become so diverse, that any information bearing on their possible mode of action should be welcome. The familiar derivative of arsenic which early found its way into use both as a drug and as a poison is the white arsenous oxide often itself spoken of simply as arsenic. The salts of arsenous acid are also employed, as in Fowler's solution. Arsenic action is not due to the element, but to the ion of arsenous acid, H_3AsO_3. Organic arsenic compounds in which the metallic atom is attached directly to carbon are only feebly toxic. In the course of time, within the body they seem to yield more or less arsenous acid, a reaction which may suffice to explain any pharmacologic potency possessed by the organic derivatives. It is a somewhat unexpected fact that the closely related arsenic acid H_3AsO_4, its anhydride and its salts are far less poisonous than is arsenous acid. This statement has now and then been disputed, but only recently again substantiated at the pharmacologic institute of the University of Berlin by Joachimoglu. The relatively greater toxicity of arsenous in comparison with arsenic acid could be demonstrated by the proportion of 10:6 in the case of the lethal dose required for intravenous injection in animals. Perfusion experiments with isolated frogs' hearts indicated the arsenous compounds to be 300 times as harmful as those of arsenic acid. In