

pressure with the finger-tips remained indented for some seconds. The thickened horny layer became wrinkled and cracked and desquamated. The nails stood off from the flesh of the fingers and there was a tendency to the upgrowth of tissue beneath the nail. At present, although the patient has handled radium for therapeutic application only occasionally for almost a year, the dryness, partial anesthesia, and slight tenderness of the finger-tips persist. Changes in the blood of radium workers have been described by Gudzent and Halberstaedter—relative and absolute increase of lymphocytes and relative and absolute decrease in neutrophiles. These were also observed by Professor Ordway. Various general symptoms, such as headache, malaise, weakness, unusual need of sleep, irritability and disorders of menstruation, have been described, but it is doubtful whether they are due to the radium or to other causes, such as close confinement and tiring routine. To prevent these effects Professor Ordway advises that in the application of radium there should be a rotation of the staff, and affected persons should at least temporarily abandon the work. Protection should be given as far as possible by screens in the form of boxes or plates about the radium. The operating rooms should be well ventilated, particularly if any radium emanation is present.

OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES AND INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE

Occupational diseases are, of course, very prevalent. The pity, and in many instances, the shame of it is that such diseases may be prevented. Some occupations are notoriously unhygienic, and it is difficult to provide precautions which will rid them of their disease-conveying tendencies, but, on the other hand, much can be done, which is left undone, to better and render more hygienic the condition of toilers, even in the most menacing occupations. Often, perhaps most frequently, bad conditions in workshops and factories are allowed to exist and continue for economical reasons. Employers are only too often more intent on making money than careful of the health of their employees, and have to be compelled by law to safeguard the lives and bodily welfare of those who work for them. It also occasionally happens that laws when made are not enforced. In the recent report of the Surgeon General of the Public Health Service the question of occupational diseases and industrial hygiene is discussed at some length. During the year investigations of occupational diseases and the hygiene of workers have been carried on under the direction of Surgeon I. W. Schereschewsky. A comprehensive in-