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DDT and man's health

It is a strange fact that, in their consideration of the long-term hazards to man of exposure to the chlorinated hydrocarbons, the Advisory Committee on Poisonous Substances used in Agriculture and Food Storage, made no mention of the men subject to high and continuous exposure in the manufacture of these compounds. Dr Hayes, in his contribution to the Royal Society discussion of the toxicity of pesticides to man,¹ concluded that real assurance about the possible long-term effects of small repeated doses may be gained by studying the effects of larger doses given over a briefer period. Hence the results of a clinical and chemical study of men with an intensive occupational exposure to DDT, carried out by Laws, Curley and Biros,² are of high interest.

This study was made on thirty-five men with eleven to nineteen years of work in a factory that has produced DDT continuously and exclusively since 1947, now producing an average of six million pounds per month. The content of DDT, its isomers and metabolic products, in the men's fat ranged from 38 to 647 ppm; the average for the general population of this area is 8 ppm. From these figures and the excretion of DDA in the urine, it was estimated that the mean daily intake of DDT by the twenty men with high occupational exposure was 17.5 to 18 mg per man per day; the average for the general population was 0.04 mg per man per day.

Neither medical history, physical examination, routine clinical tests nor chest x-ray revealed any ill effects attributable to this massive exposure to DDT.

¹ Hayes, W. J. Jr, 1967, *Proc. R. Soc. B.*, **167**, 101.

² Laws, E. R., Curley, A. and Biros, F. J., 1967, *Arch. environ. Health*, **15**, 766.

International Congress of Plant Protection

The Seventh International Congress of Plant Protection will be held in Paris from September 21st to 25th, 1970. The objectives of the Congress are those of previous Congresses, the sixth of which was held in Vienna in 1967, though the seventh Congress will not be concerned with the chemistry of pesticides, but rather their general characteristics.

Section A, dealing with economic studies, will include the significance of crop losses due to pests, the economic aspects of pest control, the implementing of crop protection measures and methods of investigation. Section B comprises: (1) prophylactic methods including sanitation, the use of resistant varieties, regulatory methods; (2) mechanical and physical methods such as thermal therapy, irradiation, etc; (3) chemical methods such as the use of pesticides, chemosterilants, attractants, repellents and inhibitors; (4) biological methods; (5) integrated control, prognosis and warnings. Section C is for the study of the consequences of pest control including the risk of residues and their effects on wild life and the problems of pesticide resistance. Section D is concerned with general procedures for the application of control measures.

The Congress is sponsored by the Société Française de Phytologie et de Phytopharmacie, from whom further particulars may be obtained, the address being 57, Boulevard Lannes, 75-Paris XVI^e, France.

Technological economics of pest control and crop protection

The Symposium arranged under the above title by the Pesticides Group of the Society of Chemical Industry was mentioned in an earlier Technology Note (Spring 1968, p. 5); further details are now available.

The symposium will open, on the evening of September