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OFFICE

Report # 21-21

April 23, 1947

PHENOTHIAZINE IN NEOPRENE

Phenothiazine is added to neoprene latex as shipped in tank cars to prevent polymerisation of the neoprene. We have tested the tank car sludge containing phenothiazine and any other ingredients in the sludge by feeding the sludge to guinea pigs in doses of 200 mg. per guinea pig. A control group was fed similar doses of phenothiazine. Six such doses over a period of a week did not give rise to any ill effect with either the sludge or the undiluted phenothiazine. Contact skin irritation did not develop in the guinea pigs with the sludge or phenothiazine when patches of the materials were applied for 24 hours.

In spite of negative tests on guinea pigs, we know from plant experience that phenothiazine will produce skin irritation in humans, and a reddish discoloration of the hair and nails has been noted on workers packaging phenothiazine. The precautions suggested in our letter of August 30, 1946 should be followed by workmen cleaning tank cars. This group should have blood counts done periodically, since phenothiazine may give rise to anemia.

HASKELL LABORATORY OF  
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Place Syracuse New York  
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