

Folk Name & Trade Diseases



Knight's Disease

E. R. Plunkett, M.D.

Illustrated by Lynn Sabol

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PREFACE

From food gathering and hunting in prehistoric periods to the sophisticated and specialized occupations of today, vocational endeavors have dominated man's activities. It is logical to presume that the association between hazardous occupational acts and physical incapacities arising therefrom must have been apparent quite early. Names applied to such disabilities would correctly and simply tend to identify both the vocational pursuit and the physical impairment as a folk or common name entity as distinct from disease terminology imposed by medical or scientific disciplines for the less well understood afflictions. As social activities and occupations evolved through the centuries, so would the related occupational disabilities and their folk appellations or designations, dictated by common terminology rather than a scientific vocabulary.

A review of the development of names for occupational diseases over several hundred years brings into focus the exquisite distinction of terminology for these illnesses as compared with frequently used medical eponyms. To the uninitiated, the Crigler-Najjar Syndrome (congenital hyperbilirubinemia associated with brain damage) is meaningless; but who would question that "glass workers' cataract" was anything but what the phrase says—the occurrence of lenticular cataracts among glass workers. Perhaps no other branch of medicine enjoys the closeness to folk and common names for illness as does occupational medicine for diseases of the workplace. Many of these names, such as "black lung", were immediately adopted and widely used from their inception, and continue to be used today in our modern vocabulary.

Although a good number of trade disease names are archaic, unused or obsolete, they continue to convey a message of work conditions of bygone years, and for this reason alone should not be forgotten. They represent part of the history of the technical evolution of trades and occupations with brevity, variety, clarity and sparkle. And the coining of such phrases continues today as in the past, meeting modern needs as the older phrases suited the technology of the past. "Jeep disease" is as meaningful to modern soldiers with a sore behind as "knights' disease" was to the mediaeval horsemen. Time changed only the hardware!

This collection ranges from old to new, obsolete to fresh, quaint to common, and somber to ridiculous. For those engaged in the occupational disciplines the names will be meaningful and the source citation may be useful. Every reader, whatever his vocation or avocation, will

probably be able to find some reference to a condition which he has suffered from, has observed in someone else, or may yet fall prey to. Historically, each entry represents a new concept pertinent to the community of the period. Even those names which appear repetitious seem to represent transitions in phraseology of the times.

A reasonably thorough search of the English medical literature promising a fair yield of these names was made in an attempt to locate the first reference in which the designation appeared, and the emphasis has been on the disease appellation. Attention was directed primarily to those names involving the trade or activity combined with the affected part of the body or organ; e.g. "Pall-bearer's palsy". In some instances the adopted name did not appear in the first description of the disease, but was coined by a subsequent author or even by an editor who felt the condition deserved special mention. Rarely, the special name showed up for the first time in the annual index of a journal. Occasionally, such terms are also found in popular publications. Many widely used terms such as "air pain", "bean weevil allergy", "fiberglass dermatitis", "Kwok's quease" were deemed not close enough to the intent of the publication; i.e., the "activity-body" concept, although a few have been included. The citations given are for the earliest reference found for that particular phrase. It may be very likely that earlier references were missed, or that disease names have been overlooked. A note from any reader about a missing name and its original source would be appreciated. Most of the foreign citations are secondary references and have not been verified. The reader should keep in mind that the definitions reflect simplification for this publication and do not necessarily represent current scientific opinions.

After searching through so many dusty volumes, the addition of one new phrase seems justified, and so the disease "index readers' syndrome" has been included.

For convenience, a rather complete listing of major body parts has also been included as an appendix.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Most of the research for this volume was completed at the Yale Medical Library and I am indebted to the library staff for their sympathetic help and assistance during the year 1977. It is doubtful that the work could have been completed without the dedication, help and suggestions of George Simonson and Peggy Delaney who also spent many hours in the tedious chore of screening journal indices. Mrs. Susan Baye cheerfully devoted her attention and demonstrated remarkable skill in producing an impeccable manuscript.



ACADEMY HEADACHE

intense frontal headache, sleeplessness and nervous prostration from studying collections of pictures in art galleries

Brit. Med. J. 1:936, 1880

ACCIDENT PRONENESS

increased susceptibility to accidents because of psychologic reasons

Farmer, E. The Causes of Accidents. London, 1932

ACID BITES

irritation and/or ulceration of the skin among workers handling chromic acid or chromate salts

Ann. Surg. 63:155, 1916

ACNE ARTIFICIALIS

acneiform eruption of the skin caused by contact with crude petroleum in Carpathian mines

Brit. Med. J. 2:86, 1887



Aerasthenia

AERASTHENIA

a general inability to adapt to flying an airplane

Brit. Med. J. 1:389, 1916

AERODONTALGIA

dental pain among persons who fly, brought about by lowered temperature and barometric pressure at high altitudes

Bull. of U.S. Army Med. Dept. 73:62, 1944

AERODROMOPHOBIA

morbid fear of traveling by air

Dorland's Medical Dictionary. 25th ed. Phila.: W. B. Saunders, 1974

AERONEUROSIS

FLYING SICKNESS (motion sickness)

Dorland's Medical Dictionary. 25th ed. Phila.: W. B. Saunders, 1974

gastric distress, nervous irritability, insomnia and emotional instability among pilots

JAMA 106:1347, 1936

AEROPHOBIA

fear of flying

Dorland's Medical Dictionary. 25th ed. Phila.: W. B. Saunders, 1974

AEROSINUSITIS

affection of the paranasal sinuses produced by changes in barometric pressure

Arch. Otol. 35:107, 1942

AESTHETE'S FOOT

an implication that gout afflicts people of higher intelligence and education

Morris Dictionary of Word & Phrase Origins. N.Y.: Harper & Row, 1977

AIR CONDITIONER PNEUMONITIS

allergic inflammatory response of the lungs to the spores of Thermophilic *actinomyces* contaminating the air conditioning system

Exxon Med. Bull. 33:32, 1973

AIR CONTROLLERS' SYNDROME

peptic ulcer occurring among air traffic controllers as a result of job stress

Illinois Med. J. 142:111, 1972

TRADE DISEASES

AIR HAMMER DISEASE

blanching of the fingers with the loss of sensation, pain and occasional joint changes caused by the use of an air hammer

JAMA 129:672, 1945

AIRMAN'S PTOSIS

drooping of an upper eyelid alleged to flying in an open cockpit airplane without wearing a helmet or goggles

Lancet 2:873, 1954



Air Hammer Disease

AIRMENS' BREAKDOWN

irritability, fatigue, weakness and anxiety among aviators

Lancet 1:714, 1928

AIRPLANE SICKNESS

motion sickness from air travel

International Classification of Diseases. 8th rev. USDHEW. Pub. Hlth. Serv. Pub. No. 1963, 1968

ALKALI ITCH

irritation of the skin by caustic used in nickel plating

White, R. P. The Dermatogoses or Occupational Affections of the Skin. London: H. K. Lewis, 1928

ALPINE SICKNESS

ALTITUDE SICKNESS

International Classification of Diseases. 8th rev. USDHEW. Pub. Hlth. Serv. Pub. No. 1963, 1968

ALTITUDE SICKNESS

dizziness, nausea, shortness of breath, headache, thirst and fatigue from a combination of decreased oxygen and atmospheric pressure

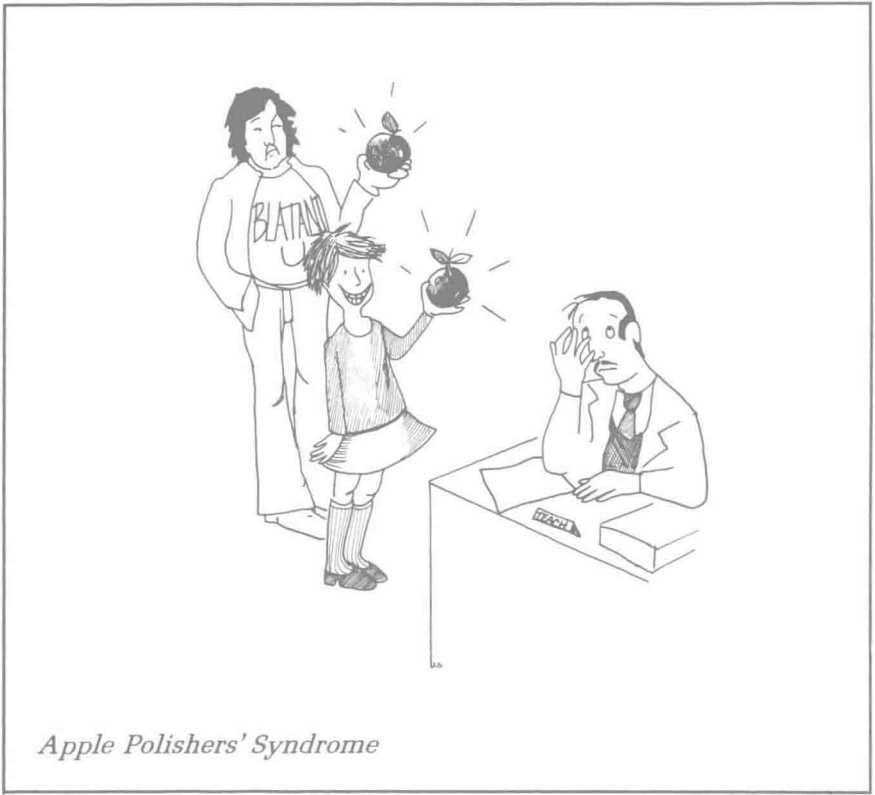
Bert, P. (1878). La Pression Barometrique. Paris: Masson (tr. by Hitchcock, M. A. and F. A.) Columbus, OH: College Book Co., 1943

ALUMINUM DUST LUNG

fibrotic lung disease caused by chronic inhalation of aluminum dust

Kobe J. Med. Sc. 4:91, 1958

TRADE DISEASES



Apple Polishers' Syndrome

ALUMINUM LUNG

ALUMINUM DUST LUNG

Brit. J. Ind. Med. 1:160, 1944

AMPOULE SNAPPER'S THUMB

thumb injury from the penetration of glass spicules produced by snapping open medicinal ampoules

Lancet 1:1412, 1976

ANATOMIC WART

tuberculosis of the skin seen in pathologists and morgue attendants

Stedman's Medical Dictionary. 23rd ed. Baltimore: William & Wilkins, 1976

ANGEL EYES

the observation of hazy halos around lights observed by workers exposed to hypochlorite dust

Indust. Med. 12:885, 1943

ANGINA ELECTRICA

irregular cardiac rhythm and chest pain which sometimes follows electrical shock

ILO Encyclopedia of Occupational Health and Safety. N.Y.: McGraw Hill, 1972

ANILINE CANCER

cancer of the urinary bladder in workers of chemical dye factories and dyeing establishments

Lancet 2:1117, 1934

APPLE PACKERS' EPISTAXIS

inflammation of the nasal mucous membrane with bleeding, seen among apple packers who used blue-dye apple trays made from recycled newspapers

N. Eng. J. Med. 276:413, 1967

APPLE PACKERS' NOSEBLEEDS

APPLE PACKERS' EPISTAXIS

JAMA 197:165, 1966

APPLE PICKERS' DISEASE

bronchitis among apple pickers exposed to the residue of a fungicide, Ziram, following the spraying of apple trees

N. Eng. J. Med. 276:413, 1967

TRADE DISEASES

APPLE POLISHERS' SYNDROME

favor-currying among students

original source not identified

APPLE SORTERS' DISEASE

dermatitis of the hands of apple sorters caused by orthophenylate salts which had been used to prevent mold growth

Occup. Hlth. 12:199, 1952

APPLE THINNERS' DISEASE

mild intoxication from parathion, an insecticide, by orchard workers exposed to recently sprayed trees

Brit. Med. J. 2:1132, 1966

ARC BURN

inflammation of the cornea of the eye or the facial skin from ultraviolet light produced by arc welding

original source not identified

ARC EYE

ARC BURN

Arch. Ophth. 23:34 1894

ARC FLASH

irritation of the eye caused by a welder's electric arc and characterized by redness, swelling, light sensitivity and a feeling of sand in the eye

JAMA 122:734, 1943

ARCTIC ANEMIA

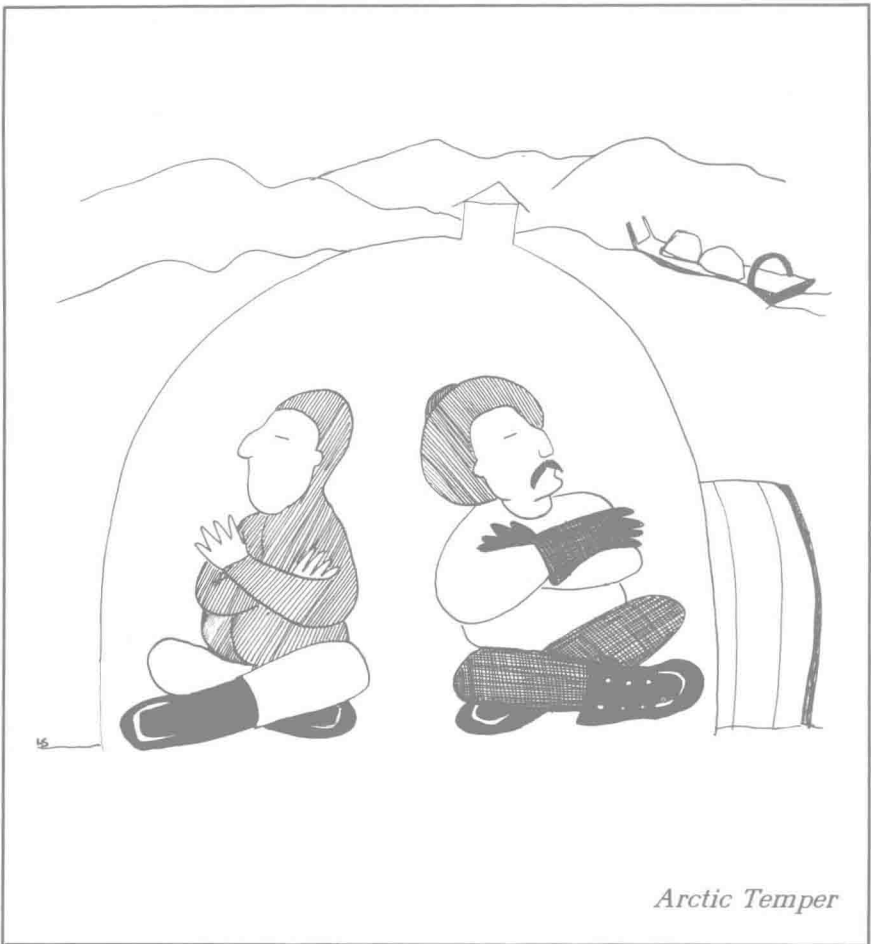
anemia among Arctic expedition crew members during exposure to low temperatures and strenuous exercise

Brit. Med. J. 1:353, 1959

ARCTIC TEMPER

extreme irritability developing among arctic explorers exposed to darkness, monotony, isolation and sensory deprivation (compare WHITE-OUT SYNDROME)

Lancet 1:1283, 1910



ARC WELDER'S LUNG

deposition of iron in the lung due to the inhalation of iron oxide fumes generated by the welding process

Brit. Med. J. 2:921, 1957

ARC WELDER'S SIDEROSIS

ARC WELDER'S LUNG

Indust. Med. 13:598, 1944

ARMY ITCH

scabies occurring among soldiers

Bost. Med. & Surg. J. 74:107, 1866

ARMY NEPHRITIS

inflammatory disease of the kidneys among soldiers, secondary to an infection elsewhere in the body

Lancet 1:495, 1918

ARTIFICIAL FLOWER-MAKER'S CRAMP

see OCCUPATIONAL NEUROSIS

Hunter, D. The Diseases of Occupations. 5th ed. London: The English Univ. Press Ltd., 1975

ARTIFICIAL SILK KERATITIS

blurred vision, with the appearance of halos around lights, occurring among workers in artificial silk manufacturing and due to hydrogen sulfide irritation

Brit. Med. J. 2:6, 1936

ASBESTOS CORNS

small, hard nodules on the fingers or hands of asbestos workers caused by asbestos particles which penetrate the skin

Lancet 1:252, 1933

ASBESTOS WARTS

ASBESTOS CORNS

Arch. J. Dermat. Syph. 161:1, 1930

ASSEMBLY HEADACHE

headaches due to exhaustion and poor ventilation in crowded theatres, exhibitions, galleries, etc.

Lancet 1:1171, 1884

ATHLETE'S ALBUMINURIA

albumin in the urine following strenuous athletic activity

Stedman's Medical Dictionary. 23rd ed. Baltimore: William & Wilkins, 1976

ATHLETE'S FOOT

fungus infection of the foot

Lit. Digest 16:1, 1928

ATHLETE'S HEART

aortic incompetence due to strain in athletic exercise

Dorland's Medical Dictionary. 25th ed. Phila.: W. B. Saunders, 1974

ATHLETE'S KIDNEY

albumin or blood in the urine following body trauma or marked physical exertion

J. Urol. 83:321, 1960

TRADE DISEASES