

ANTIDOTE FOR PARATHION POISONING

Parathion is mentioned frequently in the literature as a very highly effective insecticide. When the material is handled carelessly, it is potentially dangerous. H. J. Langhorst, Manager, Insecticide Department, American Cyanamid Company, makes the statement that tablets of atropine sulfate should be kept on hand for emergency use by all users of parathion insecticide. Atropine is obtainable only upon a doctor's prescription. Atropine tablets should be taken only when symptoms of parathion poisoning appear. The essential precautions to be observed by users of parathion are contained on all labels. For clarity these warnings are repeated here:

- "1. Do not breathe dust, vapors or spray mist.
- "2. Wear a proper respirator (airplane pilots should wear full face mask).
- "3. Bathe promptly with soap and water after application of sprays or dusts.
- "4. Wear waterproof or protective clothing, rubber gloves and hat. Wash clothing daily with soap and hot water before re-use.
- "5. Keep on hand an emergency supply of atropine tablets. Consult doctor immediately if parathion poisoning is suspected."

Dr. Lawrence E. Putnam, Medical Officer, Health Unit, Office of Personnel, U. S. Department of Agriculture, has reviewed the statements by Mr. Langhorst and concurs in all details. He states that the symptoms of parathion poisoning may be only dizziness and that death may follow within an hour. J. P. McAuley, Personnel Officer, in his memorandum to Heads of Divisions, adds the following to statements made by Dr. Putnam:

- "1. Parathion can be absorbed in the skin.
- "2. It is lethal.
- "3. Work in pairs, or at least do not work entirely alone when using parathion.
- "4. Do not use continuously for long

COMING EVENTS

- Aug. 8—Turf Field Day, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N. J. Ralph E. Engel.
- Sept. 6-7—Turf Field Days, Rhode Island State College, Kingston, R. I. Dr. J. A. DeFrance.
- Sept. 7-8—"Turf Conference and Field Days, Southeastern Turf Research Center, Tifton, Ga. Dr. G. W. Burton.
- Sept. 11-12—Turf Field Days, State College, Pa. Prof. H. B. Musser.
- Oct. 15-17—†National Turf Field Days, Washington, D.C. USGA Green Section, Beltsville, Md. Dr. Fred V. Grau.
- Oct. 25-27—Turf Conference, Manhattan, Kans. L. E. Lambert.
- Oct. 30-Nov. 3—American Society of Agronomy Annual Meetings, Cincinnati, Ohio. L. G. Monthey, Madison, Wis.
- Jan. 11-12—Maryland Turf Conference, University of Maryland, College Park, Md. Ernest N. Cory.
- Feb. 26-March. 1—Turf Conference, State College, Pa. Prof. H. B. Musser.

*These dates formerly were publicized as Sept. 14 and 15.

†October 15 (Sunday) is set aside expressly for the purpose of giving the graduate students and research workers in turf a chance to get together and develop coordinated plans and to discuss detailed phases of turf research, teaching and extension work. Those who wish to attend this session at the Hamilton Hotel, Sunday afternoon and evening, are cordially invited. The main Field Day starts Monday morning, October 16, at 9 A. M., at the Plant Industry Station, Beltsville, Md.

periods, preferably no longer than four hours at a time.

- "5. In case of sickness use the atropine as prescribed and consult a physician promptly."

This information is distributed to readers of the USGA JOURNAL not to warn them against using parathion but to urge them to take all precautions necessary to prevent bodily injury during its use.