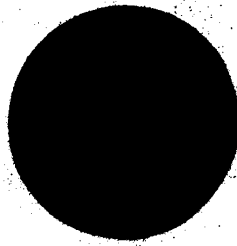
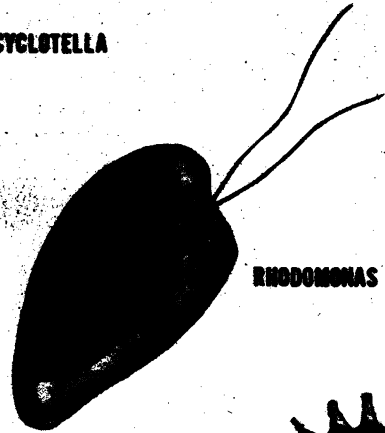




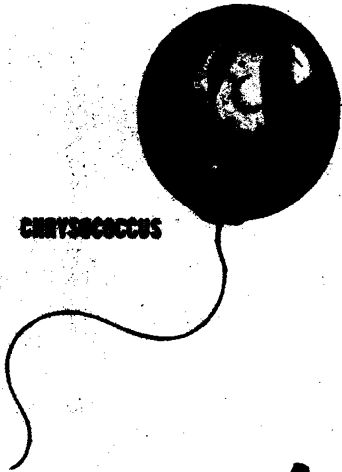
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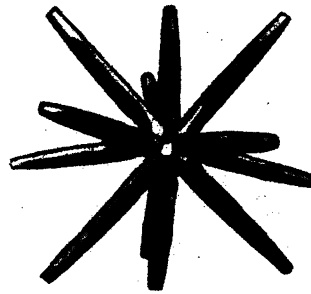
CYCLOTELLA



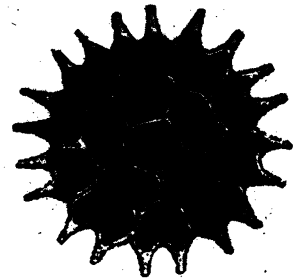
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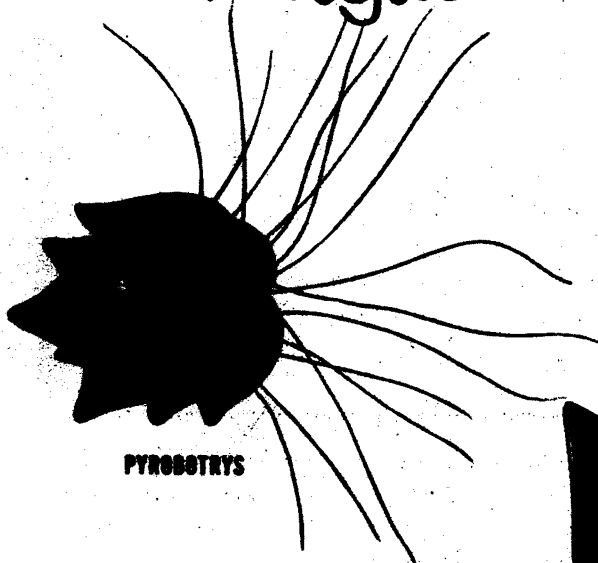


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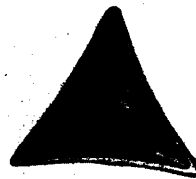


PEDIASTRUM

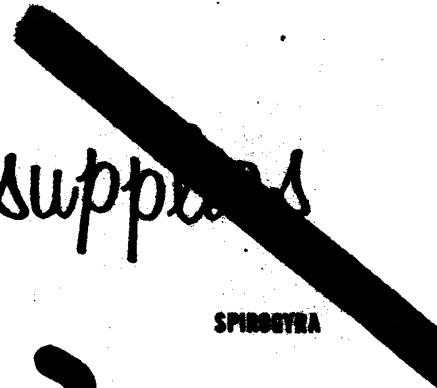
Algae in water supplies



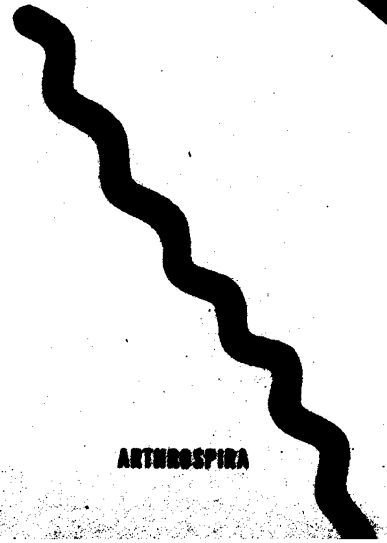
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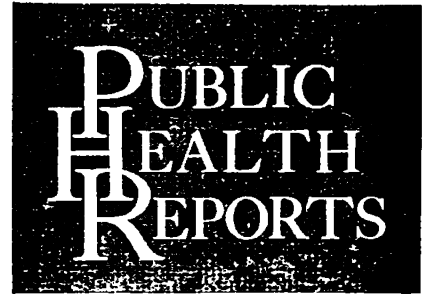
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PUBLIC HEALTH MONOGRAPH No. 59 . . . Public health nursing service to patients.

Marion Ferguson

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

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ECHOES

from Public Health Reports

THE PATCH TEST IN CONTACT DERMATITIS¹

By LOUIS SCHWARTZ, *Medical Director*, and SAMUEL M. PECK, *Senior Surgeon (R)*,
United States Public Health Service

The patch test was devised by Jadassohn (1) almost 50 years ago for demonstrating the causes of contact dermatitis. In the United States the test was not widely used in industry, nor was its practical value appreciated until attention was called to the prevalence of occupational dermatitis and the chemicals causing it, and to the value of the patch test in differentiating between occupational and other sources of contact dermatitis.

The test was first used as a means of determining the actual causative irritant in cases of contact dermatitis. Since dermatitis has on many occasions been found to be caused by irritant chemicals contained in wearing apparel and cosmetics, manufacturers have taken advantage of the patch test to determine the possible skin-irritating or sensitizing properties of new products before placing them on sale to the public.

Some enthusiasts have even proposed the inclusion of the patch test as part of the pre-employment examination with the idea of weeding out those workers who might develop occupational dermatitis. The fallacy of this proposal lies in the fact that most workers develop occupational dermatitis by contact with a primary irritant or by acquiring an allergy while actually employed. Pre-employment patch testing, therefore, could not weed out those who would become sensitized.

It is now universally accepted that the patch test, if properly performed and interpreted, is a valuable diagnostic procedure. Its value in preventing possible outbreaks of dermatitis from the use of

APRIL 28, 1944, pp. 546-557

Dr. Louis Schwartz and Dr. Samuel M. Peck introduced the "prophetic" patch test for determining whether certain substances will produce contact dermatitis. The test is applicable to new chemicals used in manufacturing as distinct from a previous patch test which had been developed for diagnosing the cause of existing dermatitis.