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1. Brit. Med. J., (1973), 4, 64

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## SUB-CLINICAL LEAD POISONING

**H. A. Waldron** *Department of Social Medicine, The Medical School, Birmingham, England*  
and **D. Stöfen** *Montabaur, West Germany*

**March 1974, x+224 pp., £5.50/\$15.50 0.12.671650.1**

In the course of this century the number of deaths from clinical lead poisoning has declined to a very low figure. But the use of lead is increasing, for example in the manufacture of lead alkyls for 'antiknock' agents and massive amounts are being released into the general environment. In recent years there has been much speculation that these increasing levels of lead, while not causing classical clinical lead poisoning, pose a threat to the health of the community and especially to that of children.

Sub-clinical lead poisoning is a relatively new concept and to some extent a controversial one. This book aims to provide a broad and objective assessment of the information available, including work carried out in eastern Europe where the problem has been considered for longer than in the rest of the world. Accounts of the metabolism and pathology of lead in man and other animals, the signs and symptoms of classical clinical lead poisoning and the mobilisation of lead by man in historical and recent times are given as background to the main study.

The authors suggest ways of minimising exposure to lead and also indicate areas for further research. Environmentalists, clinicians and anyone interested in the metabolism and pathology of lead will find this work, which has over a thousand references, invaluable.

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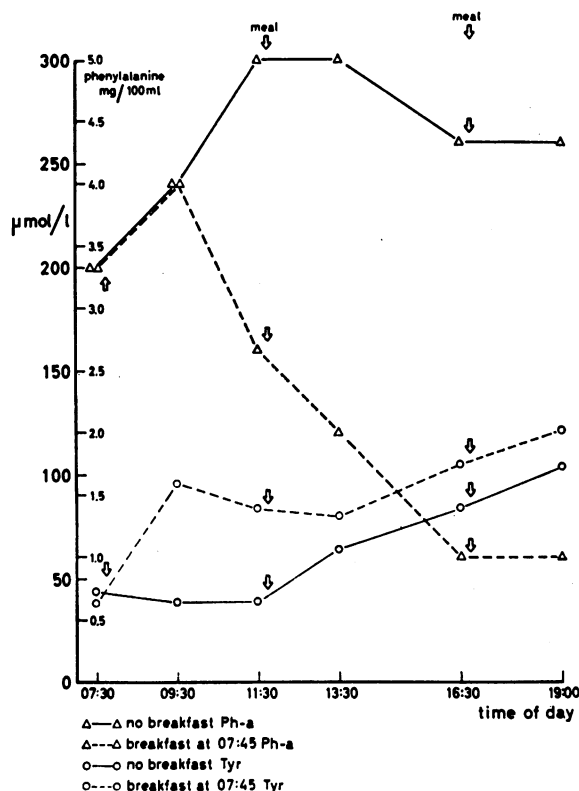
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