

issues the ear plugs, he adds, must be under medical supervision. They should never be issued from a tool crib without supervision.

Conclusions, however, about the general environment should not be drawn from changes in the hearing of any individual because of the wide variations in individual susceptibility to noise. Conclusions can be drawn from the average changes, or lack of them, of a group of people, exposed to the same environment, says Van Atta.

The final step in a noise program, he points out, is repeated noise surveys to locate changes in the environment and to assess the effects to engineering and process changes.

### Copper Algaecides Patent Gravited Applied Biochemists

A patent covering a new formulation for copper algaecides has been granted by U.S. Patent Office to Applied Biochemists, Inc.

Specifically, Patent No. 3716351, issued February 13, covers a method of preparing copper and triethanolamine which results in increased shelf life and substantially improved effectiveness of the copper-triethanolamine complex as an algaecide.

The newly-patented process is not new to Applied Biochemists. It has been used the past two years in manufacturing the algaecides CUTRINE and CUTRINE Granular (for potable water, lakes, ponds, etc.)

The previous copper-triethanolamine patent, which expired in February, was purchased from the inventor when Applied was formed as a marketing entity in 1969. Instability of the complex was a drawback at that time, leading to development and subsequent patent application for the improved method.

### Trees Pick Up Lead From Polluted Air

Trees help to get the lead out of the air downwind from incinerators where sewage sludge is burned, Connecticut investigators report.

George Stephens and Lester Hankin, of The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, and William Glover, Jr. then of the State Department of Health, examined tree foliage near two Connecticut sewage treatment plants, both serving industrial as well as residential areas.

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At one of the plants, they determined that about three-quarters of a pound of lead a day goes up the incinerator stack and into the air, and at the other, about a quarter of a pound.

Samples of foliage taken near the first plant showed an average of about 50 parts per million of lead, at the second, about 15 parts per million. This compares with 6 parts per million on trees in northwestern Connecticut, far from major high-

ways, industrial plants, and incinerators.

The investigators determined however, that automobile exhausts apparently were responsible for about 60 percent of the lead they detected near the first treatment plant. The incineration of sewage sludge was responsible for the other 40 per cent. Traffic in the immediate vicinity of the second treatment plant was so light that it probably contributed little lead to the foliage examined, the investigators report.