INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE

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No.

Investigation of Health Hazards in Government Munitions Plants

Studies of industrial health hazards in ordnance establishments, in certain industrial plants of the Air Corps, and at Quartermaster Corps depots are being continued by the Division of Industrial Hygiene of the National Institute of Health, in cooperation with the Office of the Surgeon General of the Army. At present, one mobile unit is investigating health conditions at the Ogden Ordnance Depot, Ogden, Utah; Benicia Ordnance Depot, Benicia, California; McClelland Field, Sacramento, California; and Wingate Ordnance Depot, Fort Wingate, New Mexico. A second mobile unit is working at Frankford Arsenal at Philadelphia, and a third unit has just completed studies at the Holbird Quartermaster Corps Depot at Baltimore, Maryland. A fourth unit will start operation in New England arsenals on June 30.

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Funds and Personnel

Approximately \$250,000 is to be made available to the Division of Industrial Hygiene of the National Institute of Health for the 1942 fiscal year, in order to continue the industrial hygiene activities in defense industries which were initiated on March 1 of this year. This amount, plus the regular appropriation of the Division, will bring the entire budget for industrial hygiene in the Public Health Service close to \$500,000. With these funds it has been possible to employ additional personnel so that at present there are 106 persons engaged in this work, of whom 17 are physicians, 16 are engineers, 32 are other professional personnel such as chemists, toxicologists, and physicists, and 41 are sub-professional and clerical workers. There are now 32 professional persons engaged directly in field activities in defense industries. This group consists of 12 physicians, 15 engineers, 4 chemists, and 1 nurse. It is planned to increase this mobile field group in order to satisfy the demands for personnel in the States.

Office of Dermatoses Investigations Transferred

On June 13, 1941, the Office of Dermatoses Investigations of the National Institute of Health was transferred from the Division of Infectious Diseases to the Division of Industrial Hygiene. This office will function as a third section of the Division, to be known as the Dermatoses Investigations Section, with Medical Director Louis Schwartz in charge.

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Survey of Medical Services in Industry

Arrangements were recently completed between the Public Health Service and the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, whereby Dr. W. J. McConnell of the latter organization will be appointed a consultant to the Division of Industrial Hygiene of the National Institute of Health. Dr. McConnell, in cooperation with the Division, will direct a Nation-wide survey of present-day medical service facilities in industry. The purpose of this cooperative investigation is to obtain information upon which standards for health maintenance programs in various types and sizes of industry may be based.

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Subcommittee on Industrial Health and Medicine Meets

On June 20-21, the Subcommittee on Industrial Health and Medicine, of the Health and Medical Committee, met in Detroit, Michigan with liaison officers from the U. S. Public Health Service, the U. S. Army, and the National Research Council. A progress report on the activities of the Division of Industrial Hygiene of the National Institute of Health in the national defense program was made. A number of defense industries in the area were visited for the purpose of observing model medical and industrial hygiene services in these plants.

The Subcommittee plans to meet again in September in Connecticut, at which time they will visit key defense industries in order to determine to what extent medical and industrial hygiene services are being provided for employees.

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Industrial Nursing Survey

As a part of the program to promote public health nursing in industry, which was recently undertaken by the Division of Industrial Hygiene, a survey of present industrial nursing practices is now in progress. The survey is being conducted under the auspices of the Committee to Study the Duties of Nurses in Industry, of the Nursing Section of the American Public Health Association. A report on the



results of this study and recommendations will be made before the Nursing Section at the Association's annual meeting in October.

Missouri and Oklahoma are the most recent States to employ industrial nursing consultants. There are now seven State health departments with public health nurses whose special activity is industrial hygiene, and Ohio and several other States are contemplating such activities.

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REPORTS - MONTHLY - ANNUAL - REPORTS - MONTHLY - ANNUAL - REPORTS

Monthly Reports
Only half of the State industrial hygiene bureaus are submitting monthly reports, and many of these are submitted as much as 2 months later than the month for which the report is being made. Prompt and comprehensive reports should be made on the revised form D.

Less than two-thirds of the State industrial

hygiene bureaus submitted annual reports for
the 1940 fiscal year. The increase in industrial hygiene activities
resulting from the national defense program makes it even more important for all units to submit reports for the 1941 fiscal year.

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New Jersey to Have Industrial Hygiene Bureau

The highly-industrialized State of New Jersey is soon to have an industrial hygiene bureau. The Director of the New Jersey State Department of Health has requested the Surgeon General of the Public Health Service to detail personnel to his department to function as the State industrial hygiene unit. The Division of Industrial Hygiene of the National Institute of Health will assign a doctor, an engineer, and a chemist to this work early in July.

Dermatoses in California Aircraft Factories

During May, studies of occupational dermatoses in California aircraft manufacturing plants were made by Dr. Louis Schwartz, of the Industrial Hygiene Division, National Institute of Health, in cooperation with Dr. J. P. Russell of the California State Industrial Hygiene Service. This investigation covered 9 plants, employing a total of 87,540 workers, or over 90 percent of all employees in this industry. The most frequent causes of skin diseases in these plants were found to be cutting and lubricating oils in machine shops; organic solvents in spray-painting, doping, and degreasing operations; paint and resin coatings on duraluminum; acids and caustics in cadmium-plating and chrome-anodizing processes; zinc chromate paint; fluoride fumes from welding operations; mahogany dust in woodworking shops; and organic acids and solvents in plaster shops. Of 36 employees with skin lesions who were examined, 23 were found to have dermatoses of occupational origin.

Plant physicians and safety directors in these establishments were advised as to the necessity for personal hygienic measures, the use of protective clothing and ointments, and the enclosure and ventilation of processes from which irritating gases, vapors and fumes emanate. Excellent cooperation is being obtained from employers and employees in the adoption of these precautionary measures, which should result in a marked decrease in the incidence of dermatoses in aircraft factories.

A paper covering the results of this investigation, will soon appear in the Public Health Reports.

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Kentucky Goes to Work

In March it was reported that the Kentucky State Department of Health and the Louisville City Department of Health were planning to employ industrial hygiene engineers. The State department now has an engineer and the city department has an engineer and a doctor who are swinging into action on a program of industrial hygiene services to defense industries. At present the two departments are concentrating on surveys and studies of the more important industries within their respective jurisdictions.

What's In a Name?

The name of the Connecticut industrial hygiene unit has been changed from "Bureau of Occupational Diseases" to "Bureau of Industrial Hygiene." This would indicate that the State of Connecticut has begun to appreciate, through the work of the industrial hygiene unit, the broad aspects of industrial health, i. e., that industrial health constitutes adult health in all its aspects, rather than freedom from industrial accidents and diseases alone.

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Iowa Institutes on Industrial Health

A series of special institutes on industrial health, sponsored by the Speaker's Bureau and the Committee on Industrial Health of the Iowa State Medical Society, and the Iowa State Department of Health, were held in five Iowa cities during the week of June 23. Seven national medical leaders in the field of industrial health and twenty-two Iowa physicians and industrialists participated in the week's program which began in Burlington June 23 and ended in Des Moines, June 27. The institutes were attended by Iowa practicing physicians, industrial physicians, and industrial managers. Dr. Walter L. Bierring, State Health Commissioner, presided as chairman of the institutes, and Mr. P. J. Houser and Mr. A. H. Wieters, Division of Public Health Engineering and Industrial Hygiene, assisted on the program.

Mr. E. T. Roetman has resigned from his position as engineer in the West Virginia Bureau of Industrial Hygiene to accept a position with the American Viscose Company. Mr. Roetman is to establish and administer an industrial hygiene engineering program for this company. His headquarters will be at Marcus Hook, Pennsylvania, after July 1.

State Industrial Publications Wanted for Abstracting

State and local industrial hygiene bureaus are requested to send copies of all bulletins, pamphlets, or reports which they publish to Mr. H. G. Dyktor, Chief Engineer, Bureau of Industrial Hygiene, Michigan Department of Health, Lansing, Michigan.

Mr. Dyktor has agreed to abstract all such publications for the industrial hygiene section of Public Health Engineering Abstracts, a processed publication issued monthly by the Sanitation Section, Domestic Quarantine Division, U. S. Public Health Service. Obviously

it will be necessary for Mr. Dyktor to receive the State and local publications if he is to be able to provide a prompt and comprehensive abstract service. The cooperation of all units is urged, particularly since they, as well as public health engineers in general, stand to benefit from such a service.

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New Publications

The Control of the Lead Hazard in the Storage Battery Industry. W. C. Dreessen, T. I. Edwards, W. H. Reinhart, et al. U. S. Pub. Health Bull. No. 262. Washington: Gov. Print. Off. (1941).

At the request of the National Battery Manufacturers' Association, the Public Health Service conducted a medical and engineering study of the storage-battery industry in 1937-38 to ascertain the effect of working conditions on health. This bulletin reports the results of this study and includes (1) a description of the health of 766 storage-battery workers in 6 plants, about 95 percent of whom are under a physician's supervision; (2) a correlation of the medical findings with quantitative estimations of atmospheric lead concentration which will show the extent to which one may expect the health of workers to be protected by additional progress in suppressing lead fumes and lead dust; (3) an appraisal of the effectiveness (measured in chemical and in physiological terms) of the control measures observed to be in use; (4) recommendations to guide engineers and physicians in improving their services; and (5) the results of tests of several diagnostic aids.

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Occupational Disease Control: Schedule of Occupational Diseases; Health Department Responsibilities; Rules and Regulations; Services Available. Industrial Health Series—No. 1. Issued by the Bureau of Occupational Diseases and the Sanitary Section, Baltimore City Health Department, Baltimore, Maryland, May 1, 1941. 8 pp.

This leaflet gives the schedule of occupational diseases established by the Maryland Occupational Disease Law of 1939. It lists the duties and responsibilities of the State Department of Health and of the Commissioner of Health of Baltimore for carrying out the provisions of the law and the rules and regulations for the control and prevention of occupational diseases which were adopted. These rules and regulations were adopted concurrently by the Commissioner of Health of Baltimore and by the State Department of Health and became effective on January 1, 1941. The services which the Baltimore City Health

Department desires to make available on an expanding basis for the benefit of all branches of industry within the city are also outlined.

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Periodic Health Examination. The Kalends of the Waverly Press 20, No. 5, 3-5 (1941).

The program for pre-employment and annual physical examinations of all employees of the Waverly Press is described. Mention is made of the part played by the Baltimore City Health Department in the inauguration of the program.

DIRECTORY OF STATE AND LOCAL INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE PERSONNEL

State or other jurisdiction	Name and Title
ALABAMA	
Industrial Hygiene Division Alabama Department of Public Health Montgomery, Alabama	Dr. A. J. Perolio Acting Director
	Mr. J. R. Spence Chemical Engineer
CALIFORNIA	
Industrial Hygiene Service California Department of Public Health 2002 Acton Street Berkeley, California	Dr. J. P. Russell Chief
	Dr. E. E. Dart Medical Officer
	Mr. F. R. Ingram Supervising Engineer
	Mr. S. F. Dommes, Jr. Assistant Engineer
	Mr. W. J. Roberts Junior Chemical Testing Engineer
LOS ANGELES	
Division of Industrial Hygiene Los Angeles City Department of Health 116 Temple Street Los Angeles, California	Dr. A. V. Nasatir Director
	Mr. Yale Rosenfeld Engineer
COLORADO	
Division of Sanitary Engineering Colorado State Board of Health Denver, Colorado	Mr. B. V. Howe Chief Engineer
	Mr. R. J. Owens Industrial Hygienist

CONNECTICUT

Bureau of Industrial Hygiene Connecticut State Department of Health 1179 Main Street Hartford, Connecticut

Dr. A. S. Gray Director

Dr. Crit Pharris
Ind. Hygiene Physician

Mr. A. L. Coleman Chief Ind. Hygienist

Mr. Louis Press Assistant Ind. Hygienist

Mr. Joseph Massaro Assistant Ind. Hygienist

Mr. E. L. Anderson Assistant Ind. Hygienist

Mr. B. F. Postman Ind. Hygiene Engineer

Mr. W. P. Battista Ind. Hygiene Engineer

Mr. L. W. Woodhouse Ind. Hygiene Engineer

Miss Rowena Belden Industrial Nurse

IDAHO

Division of Industrial Hygiene Idaho Department of Public Health Boise, Idaho Mr. H. C. Clare Sanitary Engineer

Mr. J. H. Latimore
Assistant Sanitary Engineer

ILLINOIS

Division of Industrial Hygiene Illinois Department of Public Health 1800 Fillmore Street Chicago, Illinois Dr. M. H. Kronenberg Chief

Dr. S. C. Beach Ind. Medical Inspector

Mr. K. M. Morse Ind. Hygiene Engineer

Mr. A. N. Setterlind Chief Chemist

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ILLINOIS (Continued)	Mr. A. H. Krause
	Chemical Engineer
	Mr. Louis Goldberg
	Industrial Chemist
INDIANA	
Bureau of Industrial Hygiene	Dr. L. W. Spolyar
Indiana State Board of Health	Chief
1098 West Michigan Street	
Indianapolis, Indiana	Mr. J. W. Kirkpatrick Industrial Hygiene Engineer
	industrial mercine instruct
	Mr. J. F. Keppler
	Chemical Engineer
IOWA	
Division of Public Health Engineering	Er. A. H. Wieters
and Industrial Hygiene Iowa State Department of Health	Director
Des Moines, Iowa	Mr. P. J. Houser
·	Industrial Hygiene Engineer
	V- C I Compali
	Mr. C. L. Campbell Chemical Engineer
KANSAS	
Division of Sanitation	Mr. Earnest Boyce
Kansas State Board of Health	Chief Engineer
Marvin Hall, University of Kanses	
Lawrence, Kansas	
Industrial Hygiene Section	Mr. W. C. Wyatt
Division of Sanitation	Assistant Engineer
Kansas State Board of Health	_
Marvin Hall, University of Kansas	Mr. E. C. Hyatt
Lawrence, Kansas	Chemist
KENTUCKY	
Bureau of Sanitary Engineering	Mr. F. C. Dugan
Kentucky Department of Health Louisville, Kentucky	Director
	Mrs. G. D. Daniel
	Mr. G. D. Reed Assistant Engineer
	Posts acma Busineer

LOUISVILLE Louisville Department of Public Health Mr. W. R. Retzer Louisville, Kentucky Assistant Engineer Dr. W. J. Connell MARYLAND BALTIMORE Baltimore City Health Department Dr. W. H. Schulze Baltimore, Maryland Director, Sanitary Section Dr. J. M. McDonald Director, Bureau of Occupational Diseases Mr. G. W. Schucker Director, Bureau of Environmental Hygiene Mr. C. E. Couchman Chief, Division of Industrial Hygiene Mr. A. J. Grossman Sr. Inspector of Industrial Hygiene MASSACHUSETTS Division of Occupational Hygiene Mr. Manfred Bowditch Massachusetts Department of Labor Director and Industries Dr. H. B. Elkins 23 Joy Street Boston, Massachusetts Chemist Mr. W. C. L. Hemeon Engineer MICHIGAN

Bureau of Industrial Hygiene Michigan Department of Health Lansing, Michigan Dr. K. E. Markuson Director

Mr. H. G. Dyktor Chief Engineer

Mr. P. F. Rezin Field Supervisor

MICHIGAN (Continued)

Mr. Charles King Industrial Hygiene Engineer

Mr. Theodore Jung, Jr. Industrial Hygiene Engineer

Mr. John Soet Industrial Hygiene Engineer

Mr. Melvin First Industria Hygiene Engineer

Mr. Lloyd Gordon Industrial Hygiene Engineer

Miss Mary Alton
Industrial Mursing
Consultent

DETROIT

Bureau of Industrial Hygiene Detroit Department of Health 1151 Taylor Avenue Detroit, Michigan Mr. W. N. Witheridge Chief Industrial Hygienist

Mr. W. G. Fredrick Chief Chemist

Mr. W. R. Bradley Industrial Hygienist

Mr. G. M. Hama Industrial Hygienist

Mr. T. F. Markell Industrial Hygienist

MINNESOTA

Industrial Hygiene Unit Minnesota Department of Health University Campus Minneapolis, Minnesota Dr. L. W. Foker Medical Director

Mr. G. S. Michaelsen Associate Public Health Engineer

Mr. G. J. Raschka Assistant Public Health Engineer

MISSISSIPPI

MISSISSIPPI	
Division of Industrial Hygiene and Factory Inspection Mississippi State Board of Health Jackson, Mississippi	Dr. J. W. Dugger Director Mr. H. L. Vaughan Assistant Sanitary Engineer
MISSOURI	
Division of Public Health Engineering Missouri State Board of Health Jefferson City, Missouri	Mr. W. Scott Johnson Director
	Mr. C. C. Dills Industrial Hygiene Engineer
	Mr. J. C. Magill Assistant Industrial Hygiene Engineer
	Mr. H. F. Schulte Assistant Industrial Hygiene Engineer
KANSAS CITY	
Kansas City Department of Health 2300 McCoy Street Kansas City, Missouri	Mr. J. L. McGregor Industrial Hygiene Engineer
ST. JOSEPH	
City of St. Joseph Department of Health St. Joseph, Missouri	Mr. R. A. Carter Industrial Hygiene Engineer
ST. LOUIS	
Industrial Hygiene Service City of St. Louis Health Division 59 Municipal Courts Building St. Louis, Missouri	Mr. John Buxell Chief Engineer Mr. W. J. Klasing Industrial Hygiene Engineer
ST. LOUIS COUNTY	

St. Louis County Health Department

Box 116

Clayton, Missouri

Mr. K. J. Wulfert

Engineer

Assistant Public Health

MONTANA

Division of Industrial Hygiene Montana State Board of Health Helena, Montana	Dr. L. M. Farner Director
	Mr. H. T. Walworth Engineer
	Mr. H. S. Herrin Chemist
NEW HAMPSHIRE	
Industrial Hygiene Unit New Hampshire State Board of Health Concord, New Hampshire	Mr. F. J. Vintinner Industrial Hygienist
	Mr. F. H. Bumford Industrial Hygiene Vent ilati ng Engineer
NEW YORK	
Division of Industrial Hygiene New York Department of Labor 80 Centre Street New York, New York	Dr. Leonard Greenburg Executive Director
NORTH CAROLINA	
Division of Industrial Hygiene North Carolina State Board of Health Raleigh, North Carolina	Dr. T. F. Vestal Director
	Mr. M. F. Trice Engineer
	Mr. C. D. King Assistant Industrial Hygienist
OHIO	
Adult Hygiene Division Ohio Department of Health Columbus, Ohio	Dr. J. B. Kistler Director
	Mr. C. A. Smucker Chemist

OKTLAHOMA

Bureau of Sanitation Oklahoma State Health Department Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Mr. H. J. Darcey Director

Mr. E. C. Warkentin Assistant Engineer

Mr. Bob Ady Chemical Engineer

PENNSYLVANIA

Bureau of Industrial Hygiene Pennsylvania Department of Health Harrisburg, Pennsylvania Dr. W. B. Fulton Director

Dr. F. E. Butters Assistant Medical Director

Mr. A. E. Dooley
Assistant Engineering
Director

Central Laboratory Division Bureau of Industrial Hygiene Pennsylvania Department of Health Harrisburg, Pennsylvania Dr. A. E. Galloway Chief

Mr. F. B. Koppenhaver Industrial Hygiene Engineer

Mr. F. N. Chirico Ventilation Engineer

Mr. H. H. Ackerman Bacteriologist

Mr. Leonard Coblentz Chemical Engineer

Mr. E. F. Hoover Chemical Engineer

Mr. H. L. Williams Chemical Engineer

Occupational Disease Reports
Division
Bureau of Industrial Hygiene
Pennsylvania Department of Health

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Mr. P. C. Hill Statistician

Mrs. I. D. Eberly Editor

Division of Physical Education and Recreation Bureau of Industrial Hygiene Pennsylvania Department of Health Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

District Laboratory Division Bureau of Industrial Hygiene Pennsylvania Department of Health Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

District Laboratory Division Bureau of Industrial Hygiene Pennsylvania Department of Health 327 Central Trust Building Altoona, Pennsylvania

District Laboratory Division Bureau of Industrial Hygiene Pennsylvania Department of Health 1321 Erie Trust Building Erie, Pennsylvania

District Laboratory Division
Bureau of Industrial Hygiene
Pennsylvania Department of Health
1218 Jefferson Building
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

District Laboratory Division
Bureau of Industrial Hygiene
Pennsylvania Department of Health
1101 Arrott Building
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Mr. John DaGrosa Chief

Mr. G. E. Greenwood Assistant Chief

Mr. Joseph Shilen
District Industrial Hygiene
Physician

Mr. A. E. Goss Chemical Engineer

Mr. J. S. Sharrah Chemical Engineer

Mr. W. L. Dentler Chemical Engineer

Mr. F. J. Willard, Jr. Chemical Engineer

Mr. Jerome Weinberg Chemical Engineer

Mr. W. H. Krecker Chemical Engineer

Mr. H. H. Russell District Industrial Hygiene Engineer

Mr. P. W. McDaniel
District Industrial Hygiene
Engineer

Mr. K. R. Doremus District Industrial Hygiene Engineer

Mr. A. M. Stang District Industrial Hygiene Engineer District Laboratory Division Mr. J. F. Mellor, Jr. Bureau of Industrial Hygiene District Industrial Hygiene Pennsylvania Department of Health Engineer 306 Scranton National Bank Building Scranton, Pennsylvania District Laboratory Division Mr. W. S. Johnson Bureau of Industrial Hygiene District Industrial Hygiene Pennsylvania Department of Health Engineer 140 East Third Etreet Williamsport, Pennsylvania RHODE ISLAND Division of Senitary Engineering Mr. C. L. Pool Rhode Island Department of Public Chief Health Providence, Shode Island Dr. J. P. Deery Medical Director of Industrial Hygiene Mr. Joseph Wuraftic Industrial Hygiene Engineer Mr. H. F. Kilguss Industrial Hygiene Chemist SOUTH CAROLINA Division of Industrial Hygiene Dr. H. F. Wilson South Carolina State Board of Health Director 925 Main Street Columbia, South Carolina Mr. R. M. Brown Chemical Engineer TENNESSEE Tennessee Department of Public *Dr. I. S. Miller Passed Assistant Surgeen (R) Health Mashville, Tennessee *Mr. C. D. Yaffe Associate Public Health Engineer TEXAS

Division of Industrial Hygiene Texas State Board of Health Austin, Texas

Dr. C. A. Nau Director

Mr. W. B. Wardlow Chemical Engineer

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TEXAS (Continued)	Mr. T. R. Thomas Ventilation Engineer
	Mr, J. F. Pierce Engineer
	Mr. W. N. Wells Engineer
	Mr. Jack Neal Engineer
	Mr. Francis Jung Industrial Hygienist
	Miss Emily Boyd Survey Statistician
UTAH	
Industrial Hygiene Division Utah State Board of Health Salt Lake City, Utah	Dr. J. L. Jones Director
	Mr. R. W. Franks
	Industrial Hygiene Engineer
	Mr. R. L. Peterson Industrial Hygiene Chemist
VERMONT	
Division of Tuberculosis and Industrial Hygiene Vermont Department of Public Health 345 College Street Burlington, Vermont	Mr. H. W. Slocum Director
Industrial Hygiene Office Division of Tuberculosis and	Dr. R. B. Aiken Medical Director
Industrial Hygiene Vermont Department of Public Health City Hospital Barre, Vermont	Mr. Frank E. Adley Industrial Hygiene Engineer
	Miss S. V. Burbidge Industrial Hygiene Nurse

VIRGINIA

Bureau of Industrial Hygiene Virginia Department of Health Richmond, Virginia Dr. J. B. Porterfield Director

Mr. R. T. Homewood Engineer

Mr. H. J. Worsham Chemist

WEST VIRGINIA

Bureau of Industrial Hygiene West Virginia Department of Health Charleston. West Virginia Dr. J. W. Crosson Director

WISCONSIN

Industrial Hygiene Unit Wisconsin State Board of Health State Office Building Madison, Wisconsin Dr. P. A. Brehm Supervisor

Mr. W. Z. Fluck Sanitary Engineer

Mr. W. L. Lea Chemist

Mrs. Aimee White Industrial Nurse Consultant