

INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE

Current News of Official Industrial Hygiene Activities

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SEND US YOUR STORY

State industrial hygiene divisions were the original recipients of this news letter--it was initiated at their request to serve as a medium for the exchange of information and experiences. There was more or less of an understanding that the State divisions would be contributing regularly to keep our incoming basket running over with news waiting for a chance to be published. Perhaps it is the rush of work that takes more of everyone's time and energy, or perhaps it is a lack of a definite assignment of someone in each State office to attend to the job, but whatever the reason, we are finding that our reports of State activities are growing slimmer. In fact, if it were not for the gleanings of news from our own staff as they return from field trips, we would have no State activities to report this month.

To keep "Industrial Hygiene" a vital, informative and representative publication, we need your active cooperation. If you have any suggestions on the type of material you would like to find in it, send us your ideas in addition to your contributions. It takes all kinds of thinking to make a news letter, and if you will combine your ideas with ours, the results will surely advance and sustain the present nationwide activity in industrial hygiene.

UNITED AUTO WORKERS'

CONFERENCE ON "COLLECTIVE BARGAINING FOR HEALTH"

On August 27 and 28, the United Auto Workers' (CIO) Medical Research Institute held a conference in Detroit attended by the Institute's Advisory Council, the staff of the Institute, and about 60 delegates of affiliated local unions.

The purpose of the conference was to acquaint the local unions with the recently enlarged program of the Medical Research Institute, and to secure advice from the Advisory Council which met for the first time with the union's local representatives.

BIOLOGY LIBRARY

The Medical Research Institute has been established by the UAW to provide medical examinations to members referred by local unions for special reasons, including exposure to dusts, fumes, vapors, and gases; skin diseases; complaint of ill health due to working environment; dispute of findings of plant physicians; and refusal for employment on account of alleged physical disability.

In addition, the Institute staff is preparing a comprehensive plan for education of members on health and safety, and developing a rehabilitation program to assist handicapped and disabled members to secure suitable jobs.

In carrying out this program the Institute has secured for its Medical Advisory Council the following persons: Dr. Dean A. Clark, Dr. Louis Schwartz, and J. J. Bloomfield, U. S. Public Health Service; Dr. Michael M. Davis, Chairman of the Committee on Research in Medical Economics; Dr. Emery R. Hayhurst, Consulting Industrial Hygienist; Dr. Kingsley Roberts, Medical Administration Service; and Dr. Henry E. Sigerist, Johns Hopkins University.

The program of the conference included discussions by the officers of the International Union, R. J. Thomas, President, and George F. Addes, Secretary-Treasurer; and by members of the Advisory Council--Dr. Hayhurst, Dr. Schwartz, Dr. Clark, and Mr. Bloomfield. Delegates from local unions presented brief talks on the health problems which their respective unions found in the factories where they are employed.

Mr. Thomas outlined the program for health and safety to be recommended for inclusion in collective bargaining contracts. He indicated that there has been a steady increase in the number of UAW contracts which contain first aid and sanitary provisions. In 1942, 38 percent of the total contracts included health clauses.

"The real difficulty," he stated, "is the refusal of managements to consider health, safety and compensation a proper matter for collective bargaining. Too many corporations take the position that these are matters over which they have exclusive right--and most frequently they insist on this right only to neglect it." He continued, "Our union, and I hope many other unions will soon follow suit, is determined to make these questions a matter for joint responsibility...."

Mr. Bloomfield, in his discussion of "Workers' Participation in a Health and Safety Program," stated that it was the policy of the Division of Industrial Hygiene of the National Institute of Health to recommend that the unions work with the management in bringing about desired improvements and cited some instances in which labor-management cooperation would have been a more appropriate action than the course taken in handling emergency health problems. In one of these cases a threat to strike was the means used to bring action on the part of management.

He especially urged that the unions develop an education program. "No other group of adults in this country offers a greater opportunity, a greater promise of fruitful results in health education than union members. The development of a good health and safety program actually depends upon the growth in health knowledge and health skills by the workers themselves."

The Medical Research Institute of the union has prepared detailed and comprehensive clauses for inclusion in future contracts. Space and shortage of paper prohibits publication of these clauses at this time, but copies of this material may be obtained from the Medical Research Institute at its Detroit headquarters.

TRAINING COURSES

Courses for Industrial Nurses in Indiana.--Indiana University announces the arrangement of courses in Industrial Hygiene for nurses to be given simultaneously in five cities in Indiana during the first semester of 1943. The courses have been planned cooperatively by industrial nurses, the Indiana State Board of Health, and the Nursing Education Staff of Indiana University. The classes will meet weekly for fifteen weeks, and on completion, two hours academic credit will be given.

Postgraduate Course in Industrial Medicine.--The Long Island College of Medicine is again offering an intensive 10-day course of lectures in Industrial Medicine beginning November 1. The general topics presented will include Changing Concepts of Industrial Medicine, Evaluation of the Health Status of the Worker, Occupation and Nonoccupational Incapacitation, Community Factors in the Health of the Worker, Protecting the Place of Work, Industrial Toxicology, Industrial Accidents, Health Education in Industry, The Industrial Physician--Labor-Management, Special Wartime Problems (Civilian Defense, Women in Industry), and Comprehensive Medical Care for Industrial Workers.

Experts from various agencies and industries will present the lectures.

Occupational Dermatoses.--A third course on Occupational Dermatoses is being planned by Dr. Louis Schwartz, Chief, Dermatoses Investigations Section, U. S. Public Health Service, and his staff the second week in December in New York City. The exact time and place will be announced. Industrial-hygiene divisions of the States, the Army, the Navy, and other agencies have been notified concerning their attendance.

STATE ACTIVITIES

ILLINOIS.--Dr. George A. Peters, Dental Consultant in the Illinois Division of Industrial Hygiene, is beginning a dental survey of three industries in which the nature of the work may possibly have direct effect on the dental health of the workers. These industries are cement manufacture, the bakery industry, and confection making. It will be recalled that some years ago the Division of Industrial Hygiene, U. S. Public Health Service, included dental examinations in several of its studies, such as radium dial painting, in surveys of fur cutting, pottery, coal mining, metal mining, nonferrous mining, and smelting industries.

MICHIGAN.--The State Department of Health has made arrangement for employing a dentist to carry on its industrial dental program. This will relieve Dr. Leland E. Evans, assigned to the Michigan Bureau of Industrial Hygiene by the U. S. Public Health Service, from further duty in that State. Preliminary arrangements have been made for his assignment to another Midwestern State.

NEW YORK CITY.--A Division of Industrial Hygiene has recently been established in New York City as a joint program through the cooperation of the New York State Department of Labor, the New York City Health Department, and the U. S. Public Health Service. The staff including a physician, an engineer, a chemist, and a nurse have been loaned by the U. S. Public Health Service to carry on an experimental program for six months in the Astoria, Long Island area. Dr. Nathan Millman is the director of this new division.

COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES

Dr. F. E. Goldman, Senior Chemist, Division of Industrial Hygiene, National Institute of Health, has been visiting the divisions of industrial hygiene in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island for the purpose of evaluating laboratory facilities and services of these divisions.

Miss F. Ruth Kahl, Consultant in Industrial Nursing, has been on a field trip during September visiting New York, Vermont, Maine, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island.

Sanitary Engineer Richard T. Page has recently evaluated the industrial hygiene program of the Minnesota Department of Health.

Senior Sanitary Engineer J. J. Bloomfield recently conferred with all the personnel of the State and local units of industrial hygiene in Missouri.

In cooperation with the State boards of health, Dr. Louis Schwartz, Chief, Dermatoses Investigations Section, visited and investigated several dermatitis outbreaks in Indiana and in a Maryland shipyard.

WORKERS' HEALTH SERIES PAMPHLETS

"Hold On To Your Teeth" is the title of the latest pamphlet in the Workers' Health Series, prepared by the U. S. Public Health Service. Quantity lots can be purchased for \$1 per 100 copies, or \$7.50 per 1,000. Sample copies may be secured from the U. S. Public Health Service.

The pamphlets already published in this series are available from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C. at the following prices:

	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Price per 100</u>	<u>per 1000</u>
1.	But Flu Is Tougher	\$ 1.50	\$ 11.00
2.	Leonard's Appendix--And How It Burst	1.00	7.50
3.	KO by CO Gas	1.00	7.50
4.	Clara Gives Benzol the Run Around	1.50	12.50
5.	Trouble In The Midriff (Indigestion)	1.50	12.50
6.	Bill Gets the Works (Pre-placement Examination)	1.50	15.00
7.	Night Shift	1.00	7.00
8.	Save Your Skin (Dermatoses)	1.00	7.00
9.	Willie's Victory Torch (Welding)	1.00	7.00
10.	What You Don't Know CAN Hurt You (Venereal Disease)	1.00	8.00

NEW PUBLICATIONS

INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE EDUCATION MATERIALS.--A pictorial catalog of the various materials available from the U. S. Public Health Service for use in industrial health education is now available from the Government Printing Office. These materials include photographs, pamphlets, posters, films, and radio dramas. This catalog is intended for limited distribution since it was designed especially for professional personnel in State and local divisions of industrial hygiene and others concerned with industrial health education.

RECREATION--A RESOURCE OF WAR.--A new booklet listing specific ways in which war plants, labor unions, and community agencies can provide much needed recreation for war workers has been prepared by the Division of Recreation, Office of Community War Services, Federal Security Agency. Field representatives of that agency are available for consultation on wartime recreation problems

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION.--"An outline of Legislation in the United States and Territories as of January 1, 1943," is available from the Division of Labor Standards, U. S. Department of Labor. This 35 page booklet discusses all types of workmen's compensation laws, and the various specifications of laws now operating.

INDUSTRIAL SAFETY.--A text on Industrial Safety edited by Roland F. Blake, Senior Safety Engineer, Division of Labor Standards, U. S. Department of Labor, assisted by a number of other persons including J. J. Bloomfield and R. T. Page of the U. S. Public Health Service, has recently been published by Prentice-Hall, Inc.

AUDITING ABSENTEEISM.--A pamphlet on absence record keeping has been prepared by the Division of Labor Standards, Department of Labor, showing sample records and procedure of seven war plants of various size. This pamphlet supplements "Controlling Absenteeism--A Record of War Plant Experience" also prepared by the Division of Labor Standards.

THE USE OF PART-TIME WORKERS IN THE WAR EFFORT.--The increasingly urgent problem of fitting working schedules to the needs of available or potential workers is thoroughly discussed in a monograph prepared by the Industrial Relations Section, Department of Economics and Social Institutions, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey.

Since this problem is directly related to the health of workers and to absenteeism, industrial hygienists can assist by urging consideration of the experience recorded in this publication.

The Industrial Relations Section has published many equally helpful reports on common industrial problems.

PUBLICATIONS

(Supplement to Publications List of Division of Industrial Hygiene, National Institute of Health, U. S. Public Health Service, September, 1945)

- INDUSTRIAL HEALTH HAZARDS. J. J. Bloomfield and R. T. Page, Industrial Safety, edited by R. P. Blake, New York: Prentice-Hall (1943). Pp. 404-21.
- STUDIES ON STRAINS OF AEROBACTER CLOACAE RESPONSIBLE FOR ACUTE ILLNESS AMONG WORKERS USING LOW-GRADE STAINED COTTON. B. H. Caminita, R. Schneiter, R. W. Kolb, and P. A. Neal. Pub. Health Repts., 58, 1165-83 (July 30, 1943).
- SICKNESS ABSENTEEISM AMONG INDUSTRIAL WORKERS, FIRST QUARTER OF 1943, WITH AN INQUIRY INTO THE OCCURRENCE OF THE RESPIRATORY DISEASES, 1934-43. W. M. Gafafer. Pub. Health Repts., 58, 1273-77 (Aug. 20, 1943).
- SICKNESS ABSENTEEISM AMONG MALE AND FEMALE INDUSTRIAL WORKERS, 1933-42, INCLUSIVE. W. M. Gafafer. Pub. Health Repts., 58, 1250-54 (Aug. 13, 1943).
- DERMATITIS FROM SEMECARPUS ANACARDIUM (BHILAWANOL, OR THE MARKING NUT) SPREAD BY CONTAMINATED MAIL. N. R. Goldsmith. J. Am. Med. Assoc., 125, 27 (Sept. 4, 1943).
- TRANSACTIONS OF THE FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENTAL INDUSTRIAL HYGIENISTS. Joint Meeting with the Subcom. on Industrial Health and Medicine, Health and Medical Com., Federal Security Agency, Washington, D. C., April 9 and 10, 1942. (mimeographed) (A limited number of copies are available for distribution by the Division of Industrial Hygiene, National Institute of Health, U. S. Public Health Service, Bethesda 14, Maryland.)
- BENEFICIAL EFFECT OF ESTROGENS ON ALTITUDE TOLERANCE OF RATS. B. D. Davis and B. F. Jones, Endocrinol., 33, 23-31 (July 1943).