

INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE

Current News of Official Industrial Hygiene Activities



WAR PRODUCTION DRIVE COMMITTEES  
INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES  
SUBCOMMITTEE DEFINES "ESSENTIAL MAN"  
A SIX-POWER LETTER TO WAR PLANTS

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DIVISION OF INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE, NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH  
U. S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE, BETHESDA, MARYLAND

## JUNE MEETING OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON INDUSTRIAL HEALTH AND MEDICINE

The Chairman and members of the Subcommittee on Industrial Health and Medicine met in the conference room of the Federal Security Agency, June 15-16.

Marked for special attention on the agenda was the extreme difficulty in which the war industries are finding themselves with respect to obtaining and retaining personnel for their medical services. The Subcommittee considered the definition of "an essential man" in government and private industrial hygiene services, and is expected to make recommendations to the War Manpower Commission through the Procurement and Assignment Service at its meeting on June 22.

Recommendations will also be forthcoming on the nutrition in industry program. Tuesday afternoon was devoted to a joint meeting with the Subcommittee on Nutrition in Industry of the National Research Council.

Dr. Townsend presented the progress report of the Division of Industrial Hygiene, National Institute of Health. Surgeon General Parran, and other members of the staff, together with Dr. A. P. McCormack, State Health Commissioner of Kentucky, also met the Subcommittee to consider problems of medical care in critical war areas.

### THE WAR PRODUCTION DRIVE "JOINS UP"

Shortly after the joint meeting in April of the National Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists with the Subcommittee, a series of conferences between various units of the War Production Board and the Division of Industrial Hygiene was initiated by Mr. Charles Taft, Assistant Coordinator of Defense Health and Welfare Services.

As a result of these conferences, a letter signed by the Chairman of the War Production Board, the Chairman of the War Manpower Commission, the Under Secretary of War, the Under Secretary of Navy, the Lend-Lease Administrator, and the Chairman of the Maritime Commission was mailed on June 5 to approximately 1,000 labor-management Production Drive Committees, which have been organized by the War Production Board in war contract plants throughout the country. This letter urged the Committee to make health conservation an essential part of the production drive, through the organization of industrial hygiene and medical services in the plants and through attention to public health services and medical facilities in their communities.

Within one week after the letter was mailed, 18 plant Committees wrote to the U. S. Public Health Service for advice on the development of health conservation activities.

The Division of Industrial Hygiene has referred these committees directly to their State industrial hygiene directors and has informed the industrial hygiene directors of this action. In addition the Division has prepared a detailed outline of an industrial hygiene program for the information of these committees. Copies of the outline may be obtained upon request to the Division.

A copy of the letter with the six signatures is appended to this issue of the NEWS LETTER.

#### COMMITTEE ON OPTIMUM HOURS OF WORK

The Secretary of Labor in April requested the Surgeon General of the U. S. Public Health Service to name a representative to a joint committee to consider optimum hours of work. Dr. Townsend, Chief of the Division of Industrial Hygiene, has been named as the Surgeon General's representative. The committee is composed of representatives of the Labor Department, the War and Navy Departments, the War Production Board, the Maritime Commission, the Department of Commerce, and the Public Health Service. The objectives of the committee are to examine all available evidence, including studies made by experts and the practical experience of management and labor, and to make recommendations for the guidance of war contract plants as well as governmental establishments in establishing a schedule of hours of work best adapted to particular enterprises. The first meeting of the committee has been called by Secretary Perkins for June 24, 1942.

#### INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

At the request of the Federal Council of Personnel Administration, the Division of Industrial Hygiene has completed a survey of the dispensaries and hygiene services in Federal departments located in Washington, D. C. These dispensaries for the most part are established and administered by the departments and bureaus concerned. It was found that of 85 dispensaries employing 155 nurses, not more than 20 were under the supervision of a physician. Functions, activities, number of personnel, and physical equipment varied widely. In no Government agency was there found a comprehensive program of environmental and personal hygiene and preventive medicine such as is recommended for private industry.

These findings, together with recommendations for the establishment of a modern employees' health program in Federal agencies, were forwarded by the Surgeon General to the Council of Personnel Administration on June 2, 1942. The over-all recommendations called for improvement in organization, personnel, utilization of space, and equipment in these dispensaries with the provision that all should be operated under medical supervision. Specific recommendations for the program included:

1. A good pre-placement examination, including a chest X-ray, serodiagnostic test for syphilis, urinalysis, and other laboratory studies as indicated;

2. Treatment of minor medical emergencies, including dental service, and referral of serious cases to private physicians;
3. Psychiatric consultation in cases of minor emotional disturbances and of serious mental illnesses;
4. Nutrition consultant services both for Government cafeterias and for consultation on special individual problems, such as overweight, underweight, and diabetes;
5. Elimination or control of environmental hazards, such as inadequate lighting, gross over-crowding, and defective ventilation, including supervision of air-conditioning;
6. Systematic reporting and recording of absenteeism, including comparison of absenteeism in the several agencies;
7. Promotion of health education.

It was further recommended that the Public Health Service be given the responsibility for organizing and supervising the program in order to secure uniform services of high quality for the 250,000 Federal employees in and around Washington. The special consultant services would also be provided by the Public Health Service.

#### EMPLOYMENT OF HANDICAPPED WORKERS

Since the establishment of the War Manpower Commission in April, conferences have been held by the U. S. Office of Education, the U. S. Employment Service, and the Division of Industrial Hygiene, to consider the employment of physically handicapped persons in the war industries. Recommendations have been made to the War Manpower Commission and a letter to employers calling for review and revision where necessary, of existing physical standards for employment, awaits the signature of the Commissioner. The policy enunciated in this letter would require the employment of many thousands of persons with minor or major disabilities and would make the pre-employment physical examination an effective tool for the proper placement of all workers.

#### ACTIVITIES IN ORDNANCE PLANTS

Reports of detailed studies in 17 plants have been submitted to the Office of the Chief of Ordnance, War Department, by the Division of Industrial Hygiene. Four additional plants have been surveyed and 2 have been revisited.

An important study on the control of tetryl dermatitis in selected Government plants will soon be initiated.

Engineers of the Division of Industrial Hygiene have prepared for the Plant Security Division, Office of Ordnance, a manual on "Engineering Control of Environmental Hazards." It is a counterpart of the manual on medical services previously prepared by the Division. The engineering manual will be supplied by the Plant Security Division to all Government establishments and will be an important chapter in their loose-leaf safety manual.

## MEDICAL AND SAFETY DIRECTORS' CONFERENCE

Physicians and engineers in ordnance plants will meet in a series of special conferences to discuss and clarify industrial hygiene problems of common concern in Government establishments. The first conference is scheduled for July 17-18, 1942, in St. Louis and will be attended by personnel from plants within a 300-mile radius of that city.

The conferences are sponsored by the Office of the Chief of Ordnance, War Department, in cooperation with the Division of Industrial Hygiene, National Institute of Health and the Surgeon General's Office of the Army. Three papers will be presented at each of six sessions, allowing time for full discussion. The speakers will include representatives of the above agencies and of the Office of the Surgeon General, War Department; the E. I. du Pont de Nemours Company; the General Motors Corporation; and the U. S. Bureau of Mines, Department of the Interior.

## PROGRESS IN TWO CURRENT SURVEYS

Medical Service Facilities.—Eighty plants, employing 225,000 workers, in Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New Jersey have submitted data on their medical service facilities for compilation and analysis.

Duties of Nurses in Industry.—Revised forms have been completed and submitted for analysis by 161 establishments, employing 448 nurses and 300,000 workers, in connection with the nationwide survey now in progress.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY ON INDUSTRIAL PSYCHIATRY TAKES SHAPE

Plans for the organization of the annotated bibliography on industrial psychiatry which is being compiled under the joint sponsorship of the Health and Medical Committee, the National Research Council, and the National Institute of Health, have been completed. The covering title will be: "Mental and Emotional Hazards in Industry—A Field Bibliography for Industrial Psychiatry."

The compilation and annotation of the references for a work of this scope involves an enormous amount of critical study of the literature. To speed the usefulness of the publication, the bibliography will be issued in a series of six or more bulletins. The first will present a detailed outline of the subject matter to be covered, general references, and suggestions for the use of the bibliography. The second bulletin will present the first area of content to be completed; namely, "Symptomatic Industrial Accidents."

## HANDBOOK ON INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE PLANNED FOR PHYSICIANS

A recent resolution of the Subcommittee on Industrial Health and Medicine recommending the preparation of a handbook for physicians on industrial hygiene in war industries has been approved by the Federal Security Administrator and the Surgeon General of the U. S. Public Health Service. The manual will be prepared by the professional staff of the Division of Industrial Hygiene, under the general editorship of Dr. William M. Gafafer.

The brochure will discuss a wide range of pertinent topics including: toxicity and potential dangers of organic and inorganic substances in war industries; occupational dermatoses; engineering control; industrial medical services; nursing in industry; dental services; fatigue; women in industry; medical control of respiratory diseases; nutrition; available governmental industrial hygiene services; industrial medicine in emergency civilian medical service, and health education for war workers.

### AIDS TO INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE PROMOTION

An illustrated pamphlet is in production which will interpret the usual services of a State or local industrial hygiene bureau to management; labor unions, and other interested groups. An illustrated catalog of the industrial hygiene education materials available from the Public Health Service will soon be issued. The catalog is in loose-leaf form and will include numbered prints of all photographs now available for release; as additional materials are produced, new pages will be added.

### TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL AS A WAR MEASURE

To prevent an increase in tuberculosis deaths, such as occurred in all countries during the last World War, the Public Health Service has begun X-ray examinations of its entire staff including Commissioned Officers and Civil Service Personnel, both at headquarters and field stations.

The examinations are being conducted by the Tuberculosis Control Unit of the States Relations Division in cooperation with the Division of Industrial Hygiene, National Institute of Health. Surgeon General Thomas Parran said in announcing the program: "The armed forces have already undertaken X-ray examination of all enlisted men entering the services. The next specific undertaking should be the examination of all industrial employees, and an annual follow-up in certain groups of workers--all if possible." He also recommended that the men in the armed forces be re-examined at the end of the war, before they re-enter civilian life. Personnel of the U. S. Public Health Service are to be re-examined annually during the duration of the emergency.

## ASSIGNMENT TO GREAT BRITAIN

Two members of the Subcommittee on Industrial Health and Medicine—Dr. W. C. Sawyer and Mr. W. P. Yant—are now in Great Britain as representatives of the United States Government to study the industrial hygiene program in British war industries. Dr. Sawyer is a new member of the Subcommittee, replacing Dr. Lloyd M. Noland, who recently resigned.

## DR. HOLDEN JOINS STAFF OF INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE FOUNDATION

Francis R. Holden, Ph.D., has been appointed industrial hygienist on the staff of the Industrial Hygiene Foundation at Mellon Institute, Pittsburgh. He will assist companies associated with the Foundation in controlling employee health hazards which are increasing with peak war production.

Graduate of Hobart College and the University of Cincinnati, Dr. Holden has been connected with the Industrial Health Conservancy Laboratories in Detroit; the Safety Department of the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company, and, for the past year and a half, has held a fellowship for the study of natural gas at Mellon Institute. He will be in charge of industrial hygiene surveys of all types for the Industrial Hygiene Foundation.

## QUANTITY PRICE OF PAMPHLETS UPPED BY GPO

The Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, states that quantity orders of the Workers' Health Series pamphlets can no longer be purchased at prices lower than \$1.50 per hundred. "Bill Gets the Works," quoted at \$12.50 per thousand in the May issue of the NEWS LETTER, sells at \$15.00 per thousand. When present stocks of others in the series are exhausted, the flat price will be 5 cents per copy, \$1.50 per 100.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

AN ANALYSIS OF INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE ACTIVITIES in State and local health departments, 1940-41. V. M. Trasko and J. J. Bloomfield. Pub. Health Repts. 57, 853-72 (June 5, 1942). Summarizes industrial hygiene activities in 25 units during the fiscal year 1941, including an analysis of field investigations, and some information on laboratory activities, medical services, and educational and promotional activities. Although this is not intended as a complete, detailed study, it constitutes the first published analysis of State and local industrial hygiene activities over a 12-month period and in such a large group of States.

COURSE IN AVIATION MEDICINE FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS. Benjamin F. Jones. Assoc. Amer. Med. Colleges. Journal. 17, 137-145 (May 1942). Because of the war emergency, renewed attention is being given to rapid and efficient training of prospective flight surgeons. Dr. Jones outlines curriculum changes to include the elementary principles of aviation medicine within the regular 4-year course. He further indicates the content necessary to an intensive course. Such a course may be given in as short a period as eight weeks.

DETERMINATION OF THE CONCENTRATION OF BENZENE AND TOLUENE IN AIR BY A SPECTROSCOPIC METHOD. Peter A. Cole. Jour. Optical Soc. Amer. 32, 304-306 (May 1942). A convenient spectroscopic method of qualitative and quantitative analysis of air samples for certain aromatic vapors is described. This method is sufficiently precise ( $\pm 10$  percent) for application in the range of toxicological importance when only a 500 cc sample of air is used. The method is limited to those vapors which have discrete band spectra in the near ultraviolet region of the spectrum. A convenient sampling bulb is described which is useful for air samples containing inflammable solvents. Working curves relating intensity of absorption to concentration are shown for two important solvents, benzene and toluene.

INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE PROBLEMS IN WAR INDUSTRIES. J. J. Bloomfield. Ind. Med. 11, 256-61 (June 1942). Industrial development in the war has brought new problems and re-emphasis of old problems to the industrial hygienist. Community facilities are often inadequate to meet the demands of congested production areas. The labor force is changing to include women, and older and younger workers. Overtime, shift work and industrial fatigue bring problems to be solved. Industrial materials and processes bring new hazards in the use of more toxic solvents, sand abrasives, more mercury, new alloys, luminous paints, more welding, and X-ray and radium for detection of flaws in metal castings and forgings. The industrial hygienists problems are somewhat complicated by the difficulty of obtaining protective devices requiring rubber, and equipment for ventilating systems.

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News items for publication in INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE should be submitted to  
Sanitary Engineer. J. J. Bloomfield, Division of Industrial Hygiene  
National Institute of Health, Bethesda, Maryland

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# WAR PRODUCTION BOARD

WASHINGTON, D. C.

June 5, 1942

IN REPLY REFER TO:

## WAR PRODUCTION DRIVE MEMORANDUM NO. 13

To: All War Production Drive Plant Committees  
From: War Production Drive Headquarters  
Subject: Health and Safety

Attached you will find a copy of a message to all War Production Drive Committees on the subject of health and safety signed by Donald M. Nelson, Chairman of the War Production Board, Paul V. McNutt, Chairman, War Manpower Commission, Robert P. Patterson, Under Secretary of War, James V. Forrestal, Under Secretary of Navy, Edward R. Stettinius, Jr., Lend Lease Administrator, and E. S. Land, Chairman, Maritime Commission.

This copy may be used by you for enlargement for posting on bulletin boards, reproduction in plant newspapers, and in other appropriate ways.



Michael W. Straus, Chief  
War Production Drive Headquarters



# WAR PRODUCTION BOARD

WASHINGTON, D. C.

May 29, 1942

IN REPLY REFER TO:

TO THE PRODUCTION DRIVE COMMITTEES:

Sick and injured war production workers lose 6,000,000 work-days every month.

We must save as many of those lost days as we possibly can for the Production Drive.

Only healthy workers can put into the drive what it takes — vigor, staying-power and the will to win.

It is your job to fight sickness and accidents. See to it that every medical and engineering means of prevention is provided in your plant. Make it a healthful working place.


Help the men and women in your plant to keep themselves healthy and on the job. You can do this by training them in health conservation and safety as carefully as you train them in efficiency.

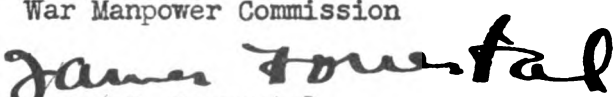
Use your influence to see that your community has an active public health department; enough doctors, nurses and hospital beds to care for your workers and their families. Your Federal and State governments are doing their part. Make sure your community does its part.

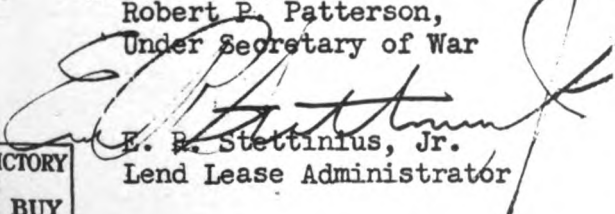
If your plant is not already conducting a sound industrial hygiene program, write to the United States Public Health Service, Washington, D. C., for advice. Do it today. You can boost production, save time and lives if you start now. Save a day for Victory.

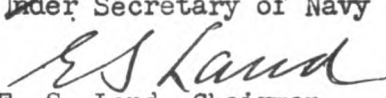
  
Donald M. Nelson, Chairman  
War Production Board

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