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INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE NEWS LETTER

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INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE FOUNDATION HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING

Physicians and engineers representing member companies, as well as Federal and State industrial hygienists, attended the tenth annual meeting of the Industrial Hygiene Foundation at Pittsburgh, November 14 and 16. An engineering conference for member company engineers preceded the general sessions, and emphasized problems of design and purchase of equipment for dust control and industrial ventilation.

Integration of the returning veteran into industry was the keynote of the opening session. Many skills learned by the veterans in the armed services can be used in industry, declared Major General Lewis B. Hershey, Director of the Selective Service System, in his keynote address. Veterans, selected for fitness and youth and trained in the use and care of mechanized equipment, offer an extraordinarily valuable group of prospective employees. General Hershey pointed out that, to the veteran, readjustment to civilian life means a good job, one which will challenge the man's capacities and give him a sense of participation in vital and constructive work.

Using the Handicapped Veteran

Dr. H. A. Vonachen, Medical Director of the Caterpillar Tractor Company, spoke on industrial utilization of the physically and mentally handicapped veteran, stating that such a veteran actually is not handicapped if he is placed in the proper position.

The blind veteran can be utilized successfully by industry, declared Michael Supa, supervisor of physically handicapped personnel of the International Business Machines Corporation. With more than 1,100 soldiers and sailors who have lost their sight in the service of the Nation, industry and business are obliged to find ways of fitting them into the normal processes of employment. The disability of blindness need not necessarily imply a great handicap to service, since its disadvantages would be modified by the individual's personal aptitudes, capacities, training, education, and previous work experience. In many cases, a man could continue his previous occupation without serious loss of efficiency. Mr. Supa recommended that employers enlist the aid of public or private agencies for the blind, in their placement of blind veterans.

Activities of the Veterans Administration were described by Major-General Paul R. Hawley, Acting Surgeon General of the Administration. Col. John N. Andrews, Officer in Charge of Postwar Activities of the Selective Service System, commented on case histories showing successes and failures in placement of handicapped veterans.

Dr. A. J. Lanza, of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, and Prof. Philip Drinker, of the Harvard School of Public Health, presided jointly over the session devoted to medical and engineering problems.

Report on Health Facility Survey

A preliminary report on a Foundation field study now in progress was given by Dr. C. O. Sappington. Begun in April 1945, the study is expected to continue well into 1946 and to cover industrial medical practices in several hundred plants of various sizes and types of manufacture, employing over a million persons. One trend shown by data already gathered indicates that in most plants industrial health programs will be maintained in the post-war years. Present reductions in professional personnel may be regarded as temporary, since war experience has shown many employers the value of health services, and the demand from organized labor for a healthful working environment may be expected to give further impetus to management's appreciation of medical services.

Dr. Sappington reported a decided reduction in the number of health complaints among industrial workers since V-J Day, and attributed this to relief from pressures of war production and general anxiety. The incidence of nervous indigestion, insomnia, cumulative fatigue, and nervous exhaustion lowered appreciably, as did the number of cases of high blood pressure in employees 45 years of age and over. On the other hand, an increase in the incidence of occupational disease occurred in plants which had no such experience during the war years, which Dr. Sappington attributed to the laying off of professional health personnel.

as chairman, with the following panel members: Senior Surgeon John W. Cronin of the U. S. Public Health Service; Albert H. Ladner, Jr., Commissioner of the U. S. Employees' Compensation Commission; Clifton Mack, Director of Procurement, Treasury Department; Charles A. Peters, Deputy Commissioner for Buildings Management of the Public Buildings Administration; Verne Zimmer, Director of the Division of Labor Standards, Department of Labor; and George N. Thompson, Chief of the Division of Codes and Specifications, Department of Commerce.

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NEED FOR CAMPAIGN TO RECRUIT INDUSTRIAL HYGIENISTS

Shortage of professional personnel is felt acutely by all industrial hygiene agencies. With the break in training of young men due to the war, the shortage is becoming particularly severe. One way by which it may be overcome is pointed out by Medical Director J. G. Townsend, Chief of the Industrial Hygiene Division, U. S. Public Health Service.

He urges that State and local directors of industrial hygiene units make a determined effort to interest students in the profession. Lectures should be arranged and given to classes in medical schools, colleges of engineering and university scientific departments. The attractive opportunities available to industrial hygienists in the service of American industries or public health agencies should be set before students of chemistry, dentistry, nursing, and other professions associated with industrial health activities. In personal letters to deans of such colleges, training opportunities in the various fields of industrial hygiene may be explained.

High schools should not be neglected, since the future occupations of youth are decided frequently at this level of education. Cooperation of the State educational authorities may be obtained. Information about industrial hygiene should be made available to occupational guidance counselors in these schools. Commencement addresses provide an excellent medium for interesting graduating high school students in the work, and assembly talks by professional members of the industrial hygiene staff are useful.

If industrial hygiene is to expand its activities to protect all industrial workers in the United States, many more men and women must be trained for all the contributing professions. Those already in the field must aid by interesting young people in the career opportunities offered.

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BRITISH AND BRAZILIAN INDUSTRIAL HYGIENISTS STUDY U. S. METHODS

Reflecting the growing interest in industrial health within their nations, Drs. R. S. F. Schilling and Donald Hunter of the British Medical Research Council, and Dr. Jorge S. Bandeira de Melo of Brazil are at present in the United States studying American industrial hygiene practices.

Industrial health research activities are being observed with especial interest by Dr. Schilling, who is Director of the Industrial Health Research Board of the Medical Research Council, and Dr. Hunter, who is Director of the Council's Department for Research in Industrial Medicine. Dr. de Melo is Director of the School of Public Health at Rio de Janeiro and its professor of industrial hygiene.

Schedules arranged for them by the Industrial Hygiene Division, U. S. Public Health Service, include periods of observation in the laboratories of the Public Health Service at Bethesda, followed by visits to the leading centers of instruction and practice of industrial hygiene.

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CARE OF INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE INSTRUMENTS

Calling attention to common causes of failure in the instruments used by industrial hygiene engineers, Senior Sanitary Engineer (R) Harry F. Seifert, Chief of the Engineering Unit of the Industrial Hygiene Division, U. S. Public Health Service, advises periodic checking of instruments such as the carbon monoxide and benzol indicators against several known concentrations of gases.

Even after replacing the active and inactive hopcalite in the carbon monoxide detectors, engineers often have found that correct readings are not obtained due to moisture leaking into the sealed vials. This condition occurs especially if the vials containing the hopcalite are a year or more old.

Lighted cigarettes should never be held before the inlet of the carbon monoxide indicator, since tars and other products of combustion will coat the thermocouples and are likely to cause erroneous readings.

Benzol indicators should be checked for possible leaks, and the desiccator tubes should be changed frequently to minimize the possibility of moisture getting into the instruments.

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NEW INDUSTRIAL HEALTH JOURNAL PUBLISHED BY A.M.A.

Publication of a new monthly journal devoted to occupational health has been announced by the Council on Industrial Health of the American Medical Association. The periodical is tentatively to be called OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE. Present plans for its contents include articles on all phases of industrial medicine, including such relatively new fields as psychiatry and industrial gynecology, with particular emphasis upon the prevention of occupational and non-occupational diseases among industrial workers.

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YALE TO TEACH INDUSTRIAL MEDICINE

Plans for the establishment of a training institute of occupational medicine and hygiene have been announced by the Yale University School of Medicine.

According to the educational program outlined, undergraduate medical students will be trained in the basic approaches to occupational medicine throughout all four years of their course. The curriculum will include instruction in sanitation, toxicology, traumatic surgery, shock treatment, rehabilitation methods, occupational diseases and their treatment, problems of ventilation, industrial medical administration, and other subjects. Outstanding industrial physicians will be invited to lecture, and students will receive apprenticeship training in the medical departments of certain industries.

Graduate instruction in the Institute will be available to physicians working in industry, and further training will be open to industrial nurses. The Institute will carry on research in industrial health problems, and give consultative service to industry.

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CALIFORNIA UNIONS SPONSOR BLOOD BANK AND CHEST SURVEY

Management of the California and Hawaiian Sugar Refining Company, of Crockett, California, and the two unions representing its workers, one A.F. of L. and the other C.I.O., have cooperated in two highly successful health activities recently.

A blood bank for company employees, with donors drawn from the membership of both unions, has been established at a hospital in Berkeley. A committee, made up of representatives of the unions and management handled all details, and men were paid full time for the afternoon spent in donating blood.

Nearly 1,000 employees, two-thirds of all workers in the plant, took advantage of a group chest X-ray service arranged by similar management-union cooperation. The tuberculosis case-finding survey was conducted by the Contra Costa Public Health Association.

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CHILDREN POISONED BY BURNING BATTERY CASES

Instances of persons suffering lead poisoning as a result of using discarded battery cases for fuel are coming to attention, as winter approaches. Latest case reported to the Industrial Hygiene Division, U. S. Public Health Service, is that of five children in one family who were made seriously ill when battery cases were used to eke out the scanty coal supply in their home.

Since this type of report is a regular annual occurrence, industrial hygiene directors in the States are urged to use publicity for warning the public against burning old battery cases.

The Industrial Hygiene Service of the Missouri State Board of Health has asked companies salvaging old storage batteries to complete the salvage operation by burning the cases in a safe place, so that they cannot be picked up and used for fuel.

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INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE IN THE WAR-TORN PHILIPPINES

What happened to industrial hygiene in the Philippine Islands under Japanese domination may be glimpsed in a letter from Dr. Gregorio D. Dizon, of the Department of Health and Public Welfare, Philippine Bureau of Health, which was received recently by the Industrial Hygiene Division, U. S. Public Health Service.

"By the mercy of God I am still alive and able to address you this letter," writes Dr. Dizon. "To what you have read about Japanese atrocities and crimes in the Philippines, especially in Manila, I have little to add except that most of those articles are short of the real facts...

"On December 7, 1941, a day before the first Japanese bombing in Manila took place, I sent you some papers which I had just finished then, for publication in the bulletin of the Association of Government Industrial Hygienists. It was about arsenic poisoning in a big copper mine in the Islands. The ore from which they extract copper contained as much as 20 percent of arsenic trioxide... We made a survey of the place and found about 60 laborers affected with dermatitis due to arsenic powder. A unit of the Section of Industrial Hygiene, consisting of two medical officers besides myself, one sanitary engineer and a chemist...made a detailed study... We examined about 800 out of more than 1,000 laborers in the mine...took samples of the air through the impinger and found a very high percentage of arsenic... The copper company that operated this mine installed machinery to collect the arsenic by-product...

"During the Japanese occupation, the Japs operated the mine and shipped copper to Japan. As you will understand the Commonwealth Government had no access to this mine, I could not make further observations... I tried to get information from some of the responsible and intelligent foremen who worked in the mine, and they assured me that dermatitis was still one of the ailments found among the exposed laborers...

"I made a study during the Japanese occupation of several cases of benzol poisoning but unfortunately the records were burned together with my other papers. You will be interested to know that this mass benzol poisoning occurred in the former U. S. Navy Base at Cavite which was taken over

by the Japanese Navy after the fall of Manila. The Japs took by force some 250 Filipino laborers and brought them to the Cavite yard where they were made to clean the underground gasoline tanks left by the Americans. They sent them down without any protection into the tank, carrying soda solution, brooms and brushes for cleaning. The manhole of this tank is just about 3 feet in diameter, for a tank with a capacity of 5,000 gallons.

"According to information I gathered from the survivors, after working for about 30 minutes inside the tank (the men) suffered dizziness, fainting, nausea, and suffocation... The laborers... escaped from the yard at night and returned to their homes..."

Dr. Dizon describes treatment given these men by the city Health Department. Mental derangement was the presenting symptom in a number of cases, of which seven died in the hospital. A Japanese naval officer brought to the Institute of Health samples of air from the tank for analysis.

"The Jap wanted to get in contact with an industrial hygienists because he suspected lead poisoning, but I warned (the Institute) not to mention my name... because I was afraid I might be... assigned to work for the Japs."

The loss of his industrial hygiene literature and records, most of them burned, is felt keenly by Dr. Dizon. He appeals to members of the A.I.H.A. to send whatever can be spared to start a new library.

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NEW ENGLAND SECTION OF A.I.H.A. MEETS

Members of the New England Section of the American Industrial Hygiene Association heard technical talks by Harvard School of Public Health faculty members and other industrial hygienists at an all-day meeting in Boston, November 24.

"Air Flow During Human Respiration" was the subject of an address by Dr. Leslie Silverman, of the Department of Industrial Hygiene, Harvard School of Public Health. Other speakers from the School included Dr. R. H. DeMeio, on tellurium poisoning; Dr. Leslie Silverman and Lt. John F. Ege, Jr., reporting on a rapid method for the determination of chromic acid mist in air.

H. F. Schulte, Director of the Industrial Hygiene Service, Kansas City (Missouri) Health Department, spoke on "Mercury Hazards in Seed Treating." "Effects of Inhalation of High Temperature and Low Temperature Air," was the subject of a talk by Dr. Alan R. Moritz, of the Department of Legal Medicine, Harvard Medical School. "Rate of Carbon Monoxide Absorption at Different Grades of Work" was discussed by Dr. W. H. Forbes, of the Fatigue Laboratory, Harvard Business School.

Manfred Bowditch, Director, and John Skinner and William M. Pierce, of the Division of Occupational Hygiene, Massachusetts Department of Labor and Industry, discussed "Carbon Monoxide from Inert Gas Furnaces." Stuart Gurney and Merrill Eisenbud, of the Liberty Mutual Insurance Company, talked respectively on "Industrial Waste Disposal Problems" and "Control of the Lead Poisoning Hazard in Can Manufacturing." Dr. C. R. Williams of Liberty Mutual acted as chairman of the meeting.

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GEORGIA A. I. H. A. HOLDS MEETING

A talk on the importance of industrial hygiene in Georgia's industrial future featured the October meeting of the Georgia Section of the American Industrial Hygiene Association, held in Atlanta October 19. Frank Shaw, head of the Industrial Bureau of the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, was guest speaker. A demonstration of field and ventilating equipment, given by Hugh Parker and George Reed, included an exhibit of equipment used in sampling dusts, vapors, etc., and pictures of various types of local exhaust installations.

The Georgia Section now has 66 active members. A Problems Committee has been established, to which members may refer their industrial health and hygiene problems. Submitted problems are studied in detail, and the committee report is distributed to the entire membership. The first such report, on DDT, was issued recently.

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OKLAHOMA PROMOTES INDUSTRIAL HEALTH EDUCATION

Through wide distribution to management and labor within the State of pamphlets, posters, motion pictures, and other educational devices, the Division of Industrial Hygiene of the Oklahoma State Health Department is carrying on a campaign of education in industrial health.

Leaflets prepared by the Oklahoma division include "Venereal Disease Control in Industry", "Good Eating for Workers", "Industrial First Aid", "Industrial Nursing", "The Doctor and the Worker", "Industrial Dentistry", "Industrial Health Engineering and Laboratory", and "Industrial Health Education." A list of films available through the State Health Department film library for plant or union meeting use is prepared and distributed. A current index of books, journals, and periodicals in industrial engineering, health, medicine, and surgery is made available to professional workers in the State.

Publications and posters issued by the Industrial Hygiene Division and other bureaus of the U. S. Public Health Service are listed and distributed to plant superintendents and safety directors.

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ACTIVITIES AMONG THE STATES

CALIFORNIA

An extensive survey of an aircraft repair and maintenance plant, in which problems of ventilation, illumination, sanitation, and toxic exposures were studied, is reported by the Bureau of Adult Health of the California State Department of Public Health.

High exposures to various fluxes were found in the gas welding section of the welding shop. Since the canopy ventilation hood did not effectively remove these irritants, local exhaust hoods were recommended. Metallizing operations were studied closely, since some operators had developed metal fume fever. Respirators were recommended as a sufficient control. In the cadmium plating section, a vat of cyanide salt used as the electrolyte was found directly beside a nitric acid bath, causing danger of hydrogen cyanide gas production if acid should accidentally spill into the cyanide tank. It was recommended that the vats be separated, and that objects being plated should be thoroughly rinsed between dippings.

Operators in the carburetor test rooms were found to be exposed to a dangerous petroleum solvent containing an aromatic fraction of about 15 percent. Existing ventilation was not sufficient, but since the company was planning a new building for this process, it was possible to recommend proper ventilation in its construction.

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In a plant engaged in impregnating fabric with a nitrate dope, serious exposures to certain solvents including ethyl alcohol, acetone, ethyl acetate, and a petroleum thinner, were found when a survey was made by the Bureau of Adult Health. Isolation of the process and installation of adequate local exhaust ventilation were recommended.

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A university laboratory was studied recently by the Bureau of Adult Health, to determine whether or not operators and employees were being subjected to hazardous quantities of mercury vapor. Concentrations above the maximum allowable amount of .10 milligram per cubic meter of air were found around sinks, where waste globules of mercury accumulated. Mercury spilled on laboratory benches and in cracks in the floors and cabinets did not appear to present any appreciable health hazard.

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The sanitarian of the Bureau of Adult Health recently spent several days with a local health department, studying their program for sanitation in industry. He assisted with a number of local plant studies.

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An increasing number of requests from the general public for information on the toxicity and proper handling of DDT are reported.

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Los Angeles

Complaints from the public about air pollution and other industrial nuisance problems have shown a steady increase since the end of the war, reports the Division of Industrial Hygiene of the Los Angeles City Health Department. Local nuisances considered tolerable in the interests of war production now apparently no longer are condoned by neighborhood property owners, who are demanding that something be done.

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In the city's effort to cope with "smog", the Division of Industrial Hygiene, at the request of the Bureau of Atmospheric Pollution Control, has undertaken to develop an effective method for evaluating the degree of atmospheric pollution. Comparison was made between three control methods—conductivity, total fume, and dust concentration—and the conductivity method proved to be simplest, fastest, and most sensitive. This method involves atmospheric sampling through an appropriate absorbing solution, and determination of the volume of gases collected by measuring the increase in conductivity of the absorbing solution.

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Los Angeles County

For one of the major aircraft plants in the area, a complete catalogue and analysis of every type of solvent used has been made by the Division of Industrial Hygiene of the Los Angeles County Department of Health. Using this list as a basis, the plant's purchasing department has since reported to the medical and safety departments any changes in formula and any new solvents introduced. This program has proved so useful in controlling toxic hazards that the Division is promoting its adoption by all industrial plants in the area which use solvents.

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Development of an effective cream for the prevention of oil dermatitis is reported by the Los Angeles County Division of Industrial Hygiene. The protective cream is receiving extensive trials in the field, and publication of results may be expected within a year.

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Educational activities have been receiving increased attention from members of the Los Angeles County Division of Industrial Hygiene. The

physician member is active on the Health Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, the Industrial Committee of the Los Angeles County Dental Society, and the Industrial Section of the Los Angeles County Medical Society.

Lectures have been given to medical students of the White Memorial School of Medicine and the University of Southern California Medical School. Individual field instruction in industrial hygiene has been developed for these students, who are taken one at a time on field trips with members of the Division staff. Educational work of the Division with industrial nurses is expanding rapidly, primarily in cooperation with the University of California.

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COLORADO

In the fight against the polio epidemic which recently threatened Denver, August T. Rossano, Jr., Director of the Colorado Division of Industrial Hygiene, was placed in charge of the environmental sanitation phase of the control program. Under his direction, an extensive plan to eliminate all possible insect pests was carried out. Field crews consisting of State and city Health Department personnel assisted by Army men from a nearby airfield sprayed large areas throughout Denver and its outlying districts with oil solutions and emulsions containing DDT. Particular attention was devoted to selected insect breeding grounds such as garbage dumps, stockyards, and the city zoo, and to sections of the city reporting many cases of the disease.

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At the invitation of the University of Colorado, Miss Vera D. Knickerbocker, Advisory Nurse of the Colorado Division of Industrial Hygiene, discussed industrial nursing and opportunities in this field with a class made up of undergraduate student nurses from five of the local hospitals.

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GEORGIA

Problems of dust control in the granite sheds of the Elberton area are under investigation by the Industrial Hygiene Service of the Georgia State Department of Public Health. With twenty sheds in Elberton and many others in the outlying districts, the study is quite extensive. There has been no need to justify the use of exhaust ventilation, since all plants in Elberton are installing such ventilation, with the advice of the Service. When installation has been completed, check studies will be made to assure that they have been properly installed and are operating efficiently.

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In a concerted effort to control tuberculosis and venereal disease in Savannah and surrounding Chatham County, a campaign is under way to secure a chest X-ray and blood test on every person living in the city and county. The Industrial Hygiene Service is cooperating in those aspects of the campaign which involve industry, scheduling X-ray service and collection of blood samples in the plants and providing medical and nursing assistance while plant surveys are in progress.

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IOWA

Officers elected at the October meeting of the Industrial Nurses' Section of the Iowa State Association of Registered Nurses are the following: Mrs. Evalyn L. Hocum, R.N., of Rock Island Arsenal, Davenport, chairman; Wilma J. Williams, R.N., of Huttig Manufacturing Co., Muscatine, vice-chairman; Marian E. Werthmann, R.N., of Rock Island Arsenal, secretary.

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MICHIGAN

Dr. Kenneth E. Markuson, Director of the Bureau of Industrial Health of the Michigan State Department of Health, reports a plant investigation in response to a request from management for aid in controlling nasal irritation among workers, rusting of equipment, and fogging of windows and spectacles.

The condition was found to exist only in the tool department of the plant, where operations were apparently normal with the exception of the existence of three small gas-fired heat treating ovens at one end of the room. The nasal irritation, rusting and fogging were more prevalent near these ovens, where an odor of trichlorethylene was very pronounced. However, no degreaser or open tray of this solvent was to be found in the tool department. A degreaser was used in the plant, but it was located in another department with no possibility of fumes reaching the tool section.

A careful survey revealed the fact that, when the degreaser was cleaned, solvent-bearing sludge was dumped into a sewer, which carried it into the tool department. Vapors from the sludge were decomposed by the ovens, and the products of this decomposition caused the complaints from this department. Safer methods of sludge disposal were recommended.

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Acting upon a nuisance complaint, the Michigan Bureau of Industrial Health recently investigated a plant manufacturing high sulfur content cutting oils. The process consisted of "cooking" 500 to 600 gallons of oil with 400 to 500 pounds of flowers of sulfur for several hours at 400 degrees F. The reaction involved liberated large quantities of hydrogen

sulfide. The sulfonation process was completely enclosed and ventilated, with the result that no hydrogen sulfide was found in the working environment. Gases generated were carried away by an underground duct about 150 feet long, and discharged at ground level into the atmosphere outside. Over 2,000 p.p.m. of hydrogen sulfide was found to be routinely discharged into the air. In order to control more effectively the gases liberated, it was recommended that a small wooden tower be erected for limestone beds 6 inches deep and 6 inches apart, and that a fine spray of water be introduced at the top of the tower to assist the scrubbing action of water sprays already in use.

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MINNESOTA

A letter listing the services of the Division and offering to assist with any problems of industrial health was sent recently to 150 of the larger industries of the State by the Division of Industrial Health, Minnesota State Department of Health. Although the letter did not require a reply, a good number of plants have written to the Division indicating their interest and approval of the program, and many of them requesting specific services. A similar letter will be sent to the smaller plants of the State during the next quarter.

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An extensive study of the industrial health aspects of recirculating air containing foundry dust cleaned by a commercial air filter installation, has been initiated by the Division of Industrial Health. The study is being conducted by the engineering personnel of the Division in cooperation with the Experimental Engineering Station of the University of Minnesota and the National Iron Company of Duluth.

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MISSOURI (St. Louis)

An article on planned postwar activities of the St. Louis City Industrial Hygiene Service has been written for early publication in the Journal of the Missouri State Medical Association. This is part of a program of cooperation in which the Industrial Hygiene Service takes every opportunity for working with the State and local medical societies.

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As part of the postwar program of the Industrial Hygiene Service, a survey of health hazards in lead storage battery manufacturing operations in the city has been started. Preliminary study in four of the five plants operating in St. Louis already has been made, and so far little serious hazard has been revealed. A complete environmental survey will be carried out in the largest of these plants, in order to determine accurately the extent of the lead hazard.

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Another part of the postwar program, promotion of in-plant feeding facilities for industrial workers of St. Louis, is well under way. An industrial feeding specialist of the U. S. Department of Agriculture has been invited to participate in conferences with management of plants interested in enlarging or installing nutrition facilities.

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During the month of October, 2,591 workers in 10 St. Louis plants were reached with the small-film tuberculosis screening service conducted by the Industrial Hygiene Service in cooperation with the St. Louis Tuberculosis and Health Society. In all, 10,284 workers in 26 plants have been X-rayed in the three months during which the survey has been in progress.

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Duplication of effort in reporting and recording procedures have now been eliminated, reports the St. Louis Industrial Hygiene Service. Since January of this year the Service has carried on the recommended procedures as developed by the National Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists and the U. S. Public Health Service, but it continued to maintain the system previously used so that a return could be made to the older method if the new plan proved unsatisfactory. With sufficient proof that the new reporting and recording procedures fulfill their purposes, the older plan has been abandoned.

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Many requests are being received for the toilet room placard prepared by the St. Louis Industrial Hygiene Service for industrial use.

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A talk on "The Physiological Considerations Involved in Air Conditioning" was given recently by Robert M. Brown, Supervisor of the Industrial Hygiene Service, to the senior class of the St. Louis University Medical School.

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NEW JERSEY

A joint investigation by the medical, chemical, and engineering members of the Bureau of Industrial Health, New Jersey State Department of Health, was made recently of a potential lead hazard arising in the can-body making department of a large New Jersey food processing plant. Medical and environmental studies were conducted simultaneously and the results correlated in evaluating exposures. Each worker was given a detailed history, physical examination, and laboratory test.

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The Bureau of Industrial Health and the Bureau of Venereal Disease Control gave material assistance to a local union in the performance of health maintenance examinations of workers in the oyster shucking industry. At a later date, chest X-rays will be taken of these workers.

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J. C. Radcliffe, Chief of the New Jersey Bureau of Industrial Health, spoke to delegates at a three-day Health Institute held at the New Jersey College for Women October 4. He praised labor and management for health programs in the State's industries. Mr. Radcliffe offered the services and equipment of the Bureau to assist the local health departments stating, "This group can be considered an element of the local health department and will work with them wholeheartedly on any industrial health problems in their areas."

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A paper on "Environmental Conditions in Plants Molding Lead-Plastic Bullets" was presented jointly by Dr. L. A. Kagen and E. L. Schall of the New Jersey Bureau of Industrial Health, at the Five-State Regional Industrial Hygiene Conference in Philadelphia. The talk was based on results obtained from medical-environmental studies in the lead refineries and the plants which prepared the plastic-lead mixture and those which molded the bullets.

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At the Victory Safety Conference sponsored by the New York Metropolitan Section, A.I.H.A., and the Greater New York Safety Council, a paper entitled "Problems Arising from some Unusual Health Hazards" was given by L. F. Weller, chemist with the New Jersey Bureau of Industrial Health.

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OREGON

The Division of Industrial Hygiene of the Oregon State Board of Health participated actively in the Oregon Safety Week, October 22-28. Posters, photographs, and actual equipment of the Division were shown in a full window display. In the auditorium, a display was maintained consisting of a model degreasing tank with the halogenated hydrocarbon apparatus permanently mounted upon it. Samples were run by the chemist at regular intervals in a model laboratory set up adjacent to the display. On background panels decorated with actual photos of Oregon industries were shown maximum allowable concentrations of the more common toxic substances found in industry. A considerable amount of industrial hygiene literature was distributed.

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An outbreak of dermatitis in a radiator repair and cleaning shop, thought to be due to use of the oakite stripper M-3, is being investigated by the Oregon Division of Industrial Hygiene. Dr. Charles M. McGill, Director of the Division, would appreciate hearing of experiences with this material in other places.

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RHODE ISLAND

A panel of physicians discussed recent developments in industrial medicine, as a feature of the 30th annual conference of the New England Industrial Nurses' Association, held at Providence, Rhode Island, October 20. At the dinner meeting, Dr. John F. Kenney, president of the Rhode Island Medical Society and president of the New England Division of the American Association of Industrial Physicians and Surgeons, talked on "Advances in Industrial Nursing."

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TEXAS

Acting upon the request of the Corpus-Christi-Nueces County Health Unit, the Industrial Hygiene Section of the Texas State Board of Health made an investigation to determine if gases being expelled from the sour crude oil storage tanks of a pipe line company constituted a health hazard. Complaints had been received from residents in the vicinity that the gases from these tanks were making them ill and making their homes uninhabitable. Following the survey, the company laid 1,250 feet of 8-inch pipe to carry hydrogen sulfide gases and other fumes away from the tanks to a part of their property near a ship channel. This ended the complaints. In suits against the company, property owners collected an average of \$100 each for damages done to their property, but renters in the area were unable to collect any money damages.

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PERSONNEL NEWS AND NOTES

DR. LOUIS SCHWARTZ, Chief of the Dermatoses Unit, Industrial Hygiene Division of the U. S. Public Health Service, lectured on contact dermatitis at a meeting of the American College of Allergists, held November 7 at Northwestern University, Chicago.

Dr. Schwartz talked on "Testing for Soap Sensitivity" before the Dermatological Section of the Southern Medical Society in Cincinnati, Ohio, November 14.

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NURSE OFFICER F. RUTH KAHL, of the Industrial Hygiene Division, U. S. Public Health Service, made consultation visits recently to the New Hampshire Division of Industrial Hygiene, the Division of Occupational Hygiene of the Massachusetts Department of Labor and Industries, and the Office of Industrial Health on Long Island, New York.

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DR. THOMAS F. MANCUSO has been transferred by the U. S. Public Health Service from Oregon to the Industrial Hygiene Service of the Ohio Department of Health. His former duties as Acting Director, Division of Industrial Hygiene, Oregon State Board of Health, have been assumed by DR. CHARLES M. MCGILL of the U. S. Public Health Service.

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KENNETH N. FLOCKE has been released from the U. S. Public Health Service to accept employment with the Oregon Industrial Commission as Chief Industrial Hygiene Engineer. He will serve in a cooperative program initiated by the State Industrial Accident Commission and the State Board of Health, to bring effective occupational disease control and prevention to Oregon industries.

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MRS. CATHERINE WEBSTER has been assigned to full-time service as Industrial Nursing Consultant in the Division of Industrial Hygiene, Oregon State Board of Health.

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MRS. HEIDE HENRIKSEN, Industrial Nursing Consultant with the Division of Industrial Health, Minnesota Department of Health, visited Edmonton and Calgary, Canada, recently, where she conducted institutes for industrial nurses and visited a number of Canadian industrial plants to observe their nursing programs. She also conferred with many public health officials, industrial nurses, and others interested in industrial health problems.

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J. C. RADCLIFFE is the new Chief of the Bureau of Industrial Health, State of New Jersey Department of Health.

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DR. DOUGLAS G. MACPHERSON, formerly Director of the Los Angeles City Division of Industrial Hygiene, is now Chief of the Los Angeles County Division of Industrial Hygiene. He replaces DR. HUGH DIERKER, who has become Medical Director of the Southern California Division of General Motors Corporation.

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