

INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE NEWS LETTER		
Current News of Official Industrial Hygiene Activities		
Issued monthly by the Federal Security Agency Industrial Hygiene Division, U. S. Public Health Service Bethesda 14, Maryland		
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**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE URGES
BETTER LABOR-MANAGEMENT HEALTH RELATIONS**

As part of its campaign to improve American health conditions, the Chamber of Commerce of the United States this month gave Nation-wide distribution to "Labor-Management Relationships in Industrial Health Problems", by J. J. Bloomfield, Assistant Chief of the Industrial Hygiene Division, U. S. Public Health Service. The article, reprinted from the Journal of the American Medical Association, was sent to 2,600 member associations with the monthly publication of the national Chamber's Health Advisory Committee.

"The necessity of maximum production for war has led many employers to discover that the health of their workers is a major factor in output," declared the release, following a quotation from the article in which it was pointed out that the time now is ripe for a new attitude on the part of both labor and management in the industrial health field.

Labor's awakened interest in the health of workers was praised, in connection with union health activities and plans to cooperate with industry in bringing health services to industrial employees.

"Whatever the approach, medical service, while it is a logical responsibility of the employer and a good investment for him, is best undertaken by management and workers jointly, for health care can't be done to but must be done with its recipients."

Committees on industrial health are active in 250 local Chambers of Commerce at present.

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UNIONS SPONSOR T.B. TESTING SURVEYS

Steel workers and garment workers in the San Francisco area received free chest X-rays this month, in a mass survey to find cases of tuberculosis. The programs were arranged by the Northern California Union Health Committee at the request of the San Francisco Tuberculosis Association, which supplied the portable small-film testing equipment.

The International Ladies Garment Workers' Union Joint Board sponsored examination of approximately 1,800 of its members and their families, with the survey held at union headquarters. Copper Smiths Local 438 cooperated with management of the San Francisco Bethlehem Steel plant in sponsoring a survey for about 9,000 steel workers.

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UNION HEALTH COMMITTEE SPONSORS REHABILITATION CONFERENCE

Problems involved in returning wounded veterans and injured or handicapped civilian workers to the fullest possible employment will be considered in a day-long conference to be held in San Francisco early in October, under the sponsorship of the Northern California Union Health Committee.

Executives, personnel directors, safety engineers and other representatives of industry and labor have been invited to participate. Officials of unions and labor councils will discuss labor's possible contributions to a rehabilitation program. Cooperation in planning the conference has been given by the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Federal Security Agency.

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SECOND QUARTER SICKNESS ABSENTEEISM RATES CONTINUE HIGH

Periodic reports to the Industrial Hygiene Division covering disabilities of more than one week among a sample of 200,000 industrial workers reveal that the average annual number of sick absences per 1,000 males for the second quarter of 1945 is 130.8 as compared with a rate of similar magnitude, 129.5, for the previous year. This similarity of rate extends not only to 1944 but also to 1943 in which year was recorded the highest rate (126.2) of the 10-year period, 1934-43. A relatively high total second-quarter rate has thus been in evidence for 3 years. So far as broad and specific causes are concerned more notable than differences are the similarities between the corresponding second-quarter rates for 1945 and 1944.

A comparison of corresponding rates for the first halves of 1945 and 1944 reveals a notable decrease in the frequency of influenza and grippe, the relatively high frequency for 1944 reflecting the epidemic prevalent during January of that year. Slight increases from 1944 to 1945 are shown for both digestive and nonrespiratory-nondigestive diseases. For the digestive diseases, however, the rate for the first half of 1945 is 30 per cent above the average rate for the first halves of the 10 years, 1936-45.

The persistence of relatively high sickness absenteeism rates over the past 3 or 4 years undoubtedly indicates the precipitation of a number of factors by the extraordinary demands on the productive capacities of industry. These demands introduced multitudinous changes in the working, home, and community conditions. Because of the reduction in available manpower

industry found it necessary to employ youth, the older worker, the long unemployed, the inexperienced, and many persons excluded from the armed forces for some reason or other. Reference is also made to emotional strains and personal mental conflicts, the lowered physical standards for employment, overtime with its attendant fatigue, and night work.

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EFFECTS OF ENVIRONMENT UPON VISUAL EFFICIENCY TO BE TESTED

Measurement of the effects upon working efficiency of improved lighting, color engineering and other controlled changes in environment has been undertaken, in a project conducted jointly by the Industrial Hygiene Division of the U. S. Public Health Service, the Public Buildings Administration, the Bureau of Internal Revenue of the U. S. Treasury Department, and the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness.

Industrial experience, notably that of the Sperry Gyroscope Company, already has indicated excellent results from such changes. The present experiment is intended to provide a quantitative evaluation of their effects.

One hundred punch card operators working as a unit in the card punching room of the Bureau of Internal Revenue are to be studied. Their present rate of output and general health condition are being analyzed. Their sight will be tested soon by a Public Health Service ophthalmologist, and his recommendations for corrective measures will be followed out.

Changes then will be made in the working environment, through improvement of lighting, application to the room and to machines of scientifically planned color schemes, and noise control. The workers' efficiency under the old and new conditions will be ascertained periodically as the study progresses, by comparing the output and accuracy of the cards they manipulate. Their general well-being will be studied by comparing rates of dispensary visits.

Proof that improvements in working environment and correction of eyesight defects actually can raise working efficiency and increase output is expected to have widespread effects upon working conditions generally. Methods used in this experiment, and their effects, will be observed closely by many governmental agencies and industries, with a view to further application.

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FORMULATION OF INDUSTRIAL X-RAY SAFETY CODE PROGRESSES

With industrial use of X-ray expected to develop rapidly and widely in industry's reconversion to peacetime production, attention of industrial hygienists is focused urgently upon measures to protect personnel working with radiation equipment.

Work of the American Standards Association War Committee on Industrial X-ray Protection continues, with Parts II through VI of the Safety Code for the Industrial Use of X-rays now in process of formulation. The entire code, when completed, is expected to form the basis for the peacetime code of X-ray safety.

Part I of the code, already published, contains basic general definitions, restrictions on the mode of operation of X-ray installations, methods of determining radiation hazards and controlling personnel, general health provisions, and recommendations for records maintenance.

Part II covers safety standards for the use, handling and storage of radium in industrial radiography. Part III deals with the methods and materials of X-ray protection. Part IV gives specific applications for 400 K.V. and lower equipment. Part V deals with X-ray protection for voltages of one or two million. Part VI covers electrical protection in the use of X-ray. These parts at present are being submitted to the criticism of authorities in the various special fields dealt with, to guide their revision before publication.

Sections still to be prepared will deal with health provisions, and with control of personnel. Part I may be obtained from the American Standards Association, 70 East 45th Street, New York 17, New York, at 25 cents per copy.

The Industrial Hygiene Division of the U. S. Public Health Service has been studying high-voltage X-ray hazards for more than a year, in connection with the health protection of arsenal workers. Regularly scheduled investigations have been made to see that X-ray tubes in use for munitions inspection are so shielded as to protect workers from stray radiation. With X-ray equipment of one and two million volts coming into wider industrial use, this experience is expected to aid in the development of practicable protection methods. Special industrial investigations will be made by Division personnel, upon the request of State and local industrial hygiene directors.

Studies are being continued in the National Institute of Health on the long-range biological effects of radiation, and upon accurate definition of the tolerance dose.

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DDT CONTROL INFORMATION DEVELOPED BY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Release of DDT for public use and its consequent widespread sale for industrial and household purposes has been arousing interest in industrial hygienists throughout the Nation, as reflected in inquiries recently received by the Industrial Hygiene Division, U. S. Public Health Service.

Caution labels for commercial containers of DDT have been formulated, in accordance with the Federal Insecticide Act, and are expected to be in general use soon. A leaflet setting forth the labeling provisions may be obtained from W. G. Reed, Chief of the Livestock Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The Industrial Hygiene Research Laboratory of the Public Health Service is maintaining close contact with companies manufacturing DDT, studying the hazards associated with its production, handling, and use. Before the Army's release of the insecticide for field use by its personnel, extensive tests of biologic effects were made by this laboratory. No case of poisoning actually due to DDT has occurred in the United States, reports the Chief of the laboratory. In more than two million persons exposed to DDT in its use by the Army for control of insect-borne diseases, no case of poisoning is known to have occurred.

Those cases of toxicity which have occurred to the present time have been found to be due to the solvents used in the DDT mixture. Many of these solvents, such as kerosene, xylene and others, in themselves may cause irritation of the skin and other harmful systemic effects when handled carelessly. Such effects may be avoided by observing proper precautions and strict personal cleanliness. It is recommended that the chlorinated hydrocarbons, with the possible exception of methylene chloride and trichlorethylene, should not be used as solvents for DDT.

In the manufacture of DDT and its products, where workers will be exposed to the substance daily for a period of years, certain precautionary measures are recommended. These are set forth in a pamphlet, "DDT Toxicity: A Report on the Toxicity to Warm-blooded Animals of Aerosols, Mists and Dusting Powders Containing DDT," which may be obtained from the Industrial Hygiene Research Laboratories, National Institute of Health, Bethesda 14, Maryland.

Many bulletins and articles have been published by this laboratory and the Division of Physiology of the National Institute of Health, exploring the effects of DDT upon man and various warm-blooded animals. These may be obtained from the Public Health Service. Questions and observations pertaining to the toxicity to human beings of DDT and DDT-containing insecticides should be directed to the Industrial Hygiene Research Laboratory.

Questions regarding agricultural uses of the insecticide should be addressed to the Chief of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington. Questions involving the contamination of foods with DDT may be sent to the Chief of the Division of Pharmacology, Food and Drug Administration, Washington. The agency legally responsible for enforcement of the Federal Insecticide Act is the Livestock Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, Department of Agriculture, to which questions involving labeling may be directed. Questions regarding insecticidal use of DDT should be referred to the Officer in Charge, Malaria Control in War Areas, 605 Volunteer Building, Atlanta 3, Georgia.

Two bibliographies listing the literature on DDT are available upon request to the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, Department of Agriculture.

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OPPORTUNITY FOR STATES IN FEDERAL RELEASE OF INDUSTRIAL HYGIENISTS

Attention of State and local industrial hygiene units is directed to the opportunity for obtaining skilled and trained personnel involved in the release of industrial hygienists from the Armed Forces and other Federal services.

To the present time, there never have been enough trained industrial hygiene personnel to fill the demand or the need in this field. The shortage existing before Pearl Harbor was made suddenly acute as the trained professional workers were taken into the Armed Forces. Replacements were not made available, since the training program conducted before the war had to be discontinued due to wartime conditions. No new industrial hygiene personnel have been formally trained since 1941.

It is anticipated that the various services will soon be releasing officers, among them men trained and experienced in the various professional aspects of industrial hygiene—physicians, engineers, chemists and others. The golden opportunity thus presented to official industrial hygiene units and to industry generally should not be missed.

A six-year gap in the supply of trained men is considered inevitable, since another two years must elapse before training programs, at present in operation or planned, will have prepared new forces for the depleted ranks of industrial health workers. If the men released from the Federal service fail to find opportunity readily awaiting them, they will turn to other pursuits and thus be lost to industrial hygiene.

Not only the working strength of the existing industrial hygiene units is involved, but the progress of industrial hygiene activities as a whole. The advances made during the war, in eliminating industrial health hazards, guarding the health of industrial workers generally, and providing to industry convincing proof of the value of industrial health activities, will be lost if the services of these men are not utilized to continue the work at the high and successful level achieved during the war.

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CLASSIFICATION AND REPORTING OF DERMATITIS CASES

Adoption of a recently-developed method for classifying the industrial and material exposures which result in dermatoses is suggested by the Industrial Hygiene Division, U. S. Public Health Service, as a useful procedure in future studies of industrial dermatoses.

The classification method was devised in the course of a study analyzing approximately 40,000 cases of industrial dermatitis reported to the Public Health Service over a period of more than 10 years. Material exposures are grouped under 27 headings which include all known industrial skin irritants and which represent the greatest detail into which the data as received can be divided with any degree of certainty.

A reporting form devised for the study is expected to prove useful to industrial hygiene units and other agencies concerned with the analysis of industrial dermatoses. The form contains the minimum essentials for the routine reporting of dermatitis cases. Once established, the system of reporting based upon this form is expected to be simple to maintain.

An article setting forth the classification method and the reporting form, written by Dr. H. P. Brinton and Dr. Louis Schwartz, of the Industrial Hygiene Division, appeared in the July issue of Industrial Medicine under the title "Dermatitis Cases Reported among Workers in Seven States."

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INDIANA PLANS DENTISTRY ACTIVITIES

Expansion of industrial dentistry was planned in a recent conference between Dr. L. W. Spolyar, Director of the Industrial Hygiene Division, and Dr. L. M. Childers, Director of the Dental Division, Indiana State Board of Health, together with Dr. E. E. Ewbank, of the Indiana State Dental Society, Dr. L. E. Burney, State Health Commissioner, and Dr. L. D. Heacock, Chief of the Dental Unit, Industrial Hygiene Division, U. S. Public Health Service.

Procedures used in several States to develop industrial dentistry upon a sound basis were described by Dr. Heacock. The support of the Indiana University Dental School has been offered to the contemplated program, with cooperation to be given in field investigations, and the addition soon of an industrial dentistry course to the curriculum.

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MICHIGAN GIVES INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE COURSE

An in-service training course in environmental control for industrial processes will be given by the University of Michigan School of Public Health October 2, 3, and 4. Organized at the request of the Michigan Industrial Hygiene Association, the course will emphasize particularly those procedures applicable to the metal working industries.

Among the lecturers are Dr. R. R. Sayers of the U. S. Public Health Service, Dr. H. F. Vaughan, Dean of the School of Public Health, Mr. W. N. Witheridge, Director of the Detroit Bureau of Industrial Hygiene, Major Roy Warren, of the Army Industrial Hygiene Laboratory, Mr. W. C. L. Hemeon, of

the Industrial Hygiene Foundation, Dr. William Blum of the U. S. Bureau of Standards, Mr. John Soet, of the Bureau of Industrial Health, Michigan Department of Health, and industrial hygienists of several large companies.

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WAYNE UNIVERSITY OFFERS HEALTH AND SAFETY COURSES

In cooperation with the Health Institute of the UAW-CIO, Wayne University is offering a 64-hour course in health and safety for industrial workers, nurses, supervisors and engineers. Classes will be held in four locations: at the University beginning September 25, at the Health Institute beginning September 24, and at union headquarters on the east and west sides of Detroit. No charge will be made to participants, since fees are being paid by the Health Education Department of the Institute.

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EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR INDUSTRIAL NURSES

An in-service training course for industrial nurses was given August 27-31 by the University of Michigan School of Public Health, with the cooperation of the Industrial Nurse Section of the Michigan State Nurses Association.

Purpose of the course was to provide guidance in some of the problems most frequently met by the plant nurse, and special emphasis was placed on the mental hygiene aspects of her work. Most lecture sessions were followed by group discussions, led by Nurse Officer (R) F. Ruth Kahl, of the Industrial Hygiene Division, U. S. Public Health Service, and Miss Mary Alton, Industrial Nursing Consultant with the Michigan Department of Health.

A course dealing with industry's health program and the nurse's part in it will be given by the University of Chicago during the autumn and winter quarters. Special lecturers representing industrial medicine, industrial hygiene and engineering, personnel, and industrial nursing will participate. Information can be secured from Nursing Education, 5733 University Avenue, Chicago.

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WASHINGTON HOLDS EDUCATIONAL STAFF MEETINGS

Educational programs planned to bring information on new developments and activities in industrial hygiene to all staff members of the Industrial Hygiene Section, Washington State Department of Health, were given in a series of meetings held in the first half of 1945.

Subjects discussed in this period have included the hazards of fumigation in pea processing, the mass tuberculosis case-finding program as applied to industry, control of carbon monoxide hazards in industry, hazards

and control measures in the mining and processing of diatomaceous earth, asbestos dangers in connection with ship construction, industrial hygiene aspects of fluorescent lighting, industrial uses and hazards of trichloroethylene, and fluorosis, with special emphasis on the occurrence of this condition in dairy cattle which pasture near aluminum plants. One meeting heard a report of a conference on the readjustment of war veterans to industrial employment.

The talks are given by those staff members considered best qualified to present the subjects planned. Intra-staff criticism of working methods is obtained through free discussion of the comments and criticism made by staff men in their plant reports.

Following a summer recess, the educational staff meetings resumed this month with a talk on the use of carbon disulphite in the plywood industry. Among subjects planned for meetings in the coming month is a further discussion of fluorosis.

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BULLETIN ON CONTROL OF CHLORINE HAZARDS

Methods for controlling hazards involved in the industrial use of chlorine are described in a bulletin issued recently by the Division of Labor Standards, U. S. Department of Labor.

Prepared in cooperation with the Manufacturing Chemists' Association of the United States, the pamphlet outlines proper handling and storage of chlorine, described its physiological action, and recommends safety and first aid measures.

"Chlorine" is the second in a new series of pamphlets on the control of chemical hazards. Sample copies may be requested from the Division of Labor Standards, U. S. Department of Labor, Washington 25, D. C., without charge. Larger numbers may be ordered from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., at 10 cents per copy, with a discount of 25 per cent on orders of 100 or more.

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INDUSTRIAL SAFETY PAMPHLET

Post-war industrial safety problems and a program for accident control are presented in an attractive publication, "Industrial Safety Tomorrow," recently released by the National Safety Council. Prepared by a committee representing many industries, governmental agencies, insurance companies and other groups concerned with safety in industry, the report is recommended as an aid in the establishment of sound plant programs utilizing the services of industrial hygiene units and other agencies which can give health and safety service to industry.

Organizations sponsoring the industrial safety program described include many industrial and trade associations, professional societies, trade unions, safety and industrial health groups. Copies of the bulletin may be obtained from the National Safety Council, Inc., 20 North Wacker Drive, Chicago 6, Illinois.

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OFFICE WORKERS' SAFETY PAMPHLET

Suggestions for safe practices which would cut down the large present incidence of accident and injury among office workers are given in a publication just issued by the Division of Labor Standards, U. S. Department of Labor.

Last year office employees of the Federal Government suffered a total of 49,000 accidents on the job, it was found in a study made by the Federal Interdepartmental Safety Council. The pamphlet is part of a program designed to acquaint such employees with work hazards and safe practices, and with the part they can play in advising their supervisors of unsafe conditions.

Titled "Is This Trip Necessary?", the pamphlet is brief, light in style, and amusingly illustrated. Space has been left on the back page for sponsoring organizations or firms to stamp in their own names. Samples, at 5 cents per copy, may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. A 25 per cent discount is allowed on orders of 100 or more copies, and remittance should accompany the order.

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ACTIVITIES AMONG THE STATES

CALIFORNIA

An outbreak of dermatitis among workers processing carrots for canning, involving 73 out of 170 plant employees, was investigated recently by the Bureau of Adult Health, California State Department of Public Health. It was found that skin troubles developed only among those workers handling peeled carrots. It was recommended that these employees wear rubber gloves and protective clothing while at work, and that other cleanliness and precautionary measures be taken. In cases difficult to heal, management was advised to transfer the workers to other jobs.

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Acting upon complaints that workmen in a large iron foundry were suffering from irritation of the mucous membrane of eyes and respiratory tract, the Bureau of Adult Health investigated the plant and found that the

most likely cause was liberation of aldehydes in the atmosphere from decomposition of the oil used for bonding the core material. The crane operator was found to be exposed to the highest concentration, involving a serious danger not only to himself but the men on the floor below. Corrective ventilation methods were recommended.

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An investigation of atmospheric carbon monoxide contamination caused by buses was made in a southern California city by the Bureau of Adult Health. The health hazard to pedestrians as well as bus operators and passengers was studied. In the projection room of a downtown theater, carbon monoxide concentrations of 100 parts per million were found, caused by an exhaust ventilating system which drew air directly from the street, where buses stopped with motors running before the theater.

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An institute for industrial nurses on eyesight conservation was given in Los Angeles recently by a representative of the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness.

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COLORADO

The sixth annual meeting on industrial accident prevention and first aid was held in Denver August 3 and 4, under the sponsorship of the Industrial Commission of Colorado. August T. Rossano, Jr., Director of the Division of Industrial Hygiene, State Division of Public Health, acted as moderator for a panel on health and hygiene. Members of the panel included representatives of management, labor, the medical profession, the Industrial Commission, and public health department.

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ILLINOIS

The closing phases of the war brought increased problems of toxic materials hazardous to war workers, according to the annual report of the Division of Industrial Hygiene, Illinois Department of Public Health. Radium, radium paint and mercury caused particular concern. In a control program which has been in effect for three years, employees painting radium dials were examined every six months. Breath specimens were obtained and tested for radioactivity. The expanded use of electric arc welding, metalizing, and metal cleaning and coating operations caused other serious control problems. The hazards in lead smelting and refining were intensified in this period by the introduction of new processes, such as the manufacture of frangible bullets, requiring constant industrial hygiene vigilance.

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Closer cooperation with local health departments is planned by the Illinois Division of Industrial Hygiene in the coming year, in order to expand industrial hygiene activities throughout the State. The State office will be decentralized, with district offices tentatively scheduled for Rockford, Springfield, East St. Louis and two other locations. A branch laboratory is planned for Springfield. According to the plan, an industrial hygiene engineer will be located in each district office, with an industrial nursing consultant in the Springfield district to serve downstate industries.

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Requests from the public for action by the Division of Industrial Hygiene on nuisance problems have expanded greatly in the past year. Atmospheric contamination near industrial plants was the chief cause. Service was limited by the fact that in Illinois nuisances are considered local problems, covered by local ordinance, and that the State Supreme Court has held that a plant is not liable for odors, gases and vapors generated necessarily in the process of manufacturing articles for commerce.

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Among activities of the industrial nursing section of the Illinois industrial hygiene division during the past year were participation in the public health nursing courses of 11 hospital schools for nurses, participation in an industrial hygiene course for nurses given by Loyola University, assistance in a program of nutrition consultation services to industry, and assistance in an industrial case-finding program conducted jointly with the Division of Tuberculosis Control.

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Requests for assistance in establishing dental health programs have been received by the Division of Industrial Hygiene from a large steel plant and one of Chicago's large department stores.

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Among educational activities of the Illinois Division of Industrial Hygiene in the past year were development of many industrial health conferences in cooperation with county medical societies, manufacturers groups, county and city health departments, and industrial nursing organizations. One such meeting, held in Rockford, was attended by 225 physicians, nurses and others. Another, held in LaSalle, had an attendance of 75 persons. All meetings held were better attended than in previous years, and annual meetings have been requested by several localities.

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Tuberculosis surveys were conducted in five counties in the past year, with approximately 26,668 workers X-rayed. Industrial demand for this service has exceeded the Division's ability to comply.

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The Division of Maternal and Child Hygiene cooperated with the Division of Industrial Hygiene in bringing to industry the services of nutrition consultants.

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INDIANA

Spinners working with diazo dyed paper in the manufacture of paper yarn developed a sensitizing dermatitis within 7 to 21 days after exposure. Upon investigation by the Division of Industrial Hygiene, Indiana State Board of Health, it was found that the work could be reorganized so that the thin paper strips were dyed after rather than before weaving, thus limiting dye exposures to 2 instead of 50 workers. Those still exposed to the sensitizing agent were provided with standard protective measures.

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In a broaching operation set up so that 15 per cent carbon tetrachloride was added to the cutting oil, workers were complaining of gastric disturbances, headaches, and general malaise. Investigation by industrial hygiene personnel found atmospheric concentrations of carbon tetrachloride to be between 350 and 415 p.p.m. The toxic chemical was used to cool the cutting oil through evaporation, and management declared that substitution of a less toxic solvent was impossible due to fire hazards. Enclosure of the process plus local exhaust are being considered at present. If other industrial hygiene units have met and solved similar problems, the Division of Industrial Hygiene would appreciate learning of the controls used.

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In a plant sewing canvas impregnated with the fungicide dihydroxydichloro-diphenyl-methane, dermatitis developed in 35 of the 50 workers employed. Incubation periods varied from 10 to 14 days. Investigation was begun, but with V-J day the work was discontinued, thus cancelling the problem.

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KENTUCKY

A state-wide medical and engineering study of silicosis and silicious exposures in the refractory brick industry has been completed by the Division of Industrial Health, Kentucky State Department of Health. More than

1,000 workers were included in the study, in which 876 chest X-rays were taken. The engineering part included several hundred dust counts both before and after certain control measures were installed, thus making it possible to establish the effectiveness of the recommended controls. A report of the study will appear in the December issue of the Journal of Industrial Hygiene and Toxicology.

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MISSOURI (St. Louis)

Planning of its post-war program has been under way in the Industrial Hygiene Service of the St. Louis City Department of Public Welfare for the past several months, reports Robert M. Brown, Supervisor. Staff members have been reviewing their wartime activities and crystallizing new ideas. In several recent staff conferences, the suggestions of all members were received and discussed in detail. Those ideas which survived this critical appraisal were considered suitable for inclusion in the future program of self-initiated work. Final editing of the program is now being done, prior to its adoption.

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Labor unions were invited to support and participate in the industrial tuberculosis screening survey which continued at high gear in St. Louis during the past month. Industrial associations also have been approached, by letter or personal contact, in order to acquaint them with the scope and objectives of the program. Federal government offices in the city have been particularly cooperative. Screening surveys were conducted in 7 establishments during August, with a total of 3,762 workers X-rayed.

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Distribution of industrial health education materials was increased during the past month, reports the St. Louis Industrial Hygiene Service. A new check list of such materials has been prepared, and a copy is left with each plant upon completion of a survey or study. Pamphlets in the Workers' Health Series and other educational materials prepared by the U. S. Public Health Service have been assembled in a literature folio, from which management can designate those items it wishes to use.

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Something of the new health hazards which will be encountered in industry's reconversion to peacetime production is indicated in an investigation made recently by the St. Louis Industrial Hygiene Service. In a large war contract plant, a follow-up was made of vapor degreasing operations previously studied. At the same time a study was made of sandblast operations conducted as part of this company's regular peacetime manufacturing operations, which are being resumed on a limited scale. The silica exposures

were revealed to be of much greater significance than those of trichloroethylene, and recommendations for control were made. This hazard is expected to increase sharply as the plant's production mounts.

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An atmospheric dust pollution problem was studied recently by the St. Louis Industrial Hygiene Service, in cooperation with engineers from the Industrial Hygiene Division, U. S. Public Health Service. Samples of the dust complained of were obtained, and when subjected to microscopic examination were found to contain a large number of fused spherical particles. Dusts produced by a nearby plant were studied. Samples taken from the base of a stack serving a calcining operation showed the same characteristics. The situation was discussed with plant management, and recommendations for control of the dust dispersion are being considered.

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PENNSYLVANIA

Services were given to 7,983 plants employing 1,477,361 workers by the Bureau of Industrial Hygiene, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Health, in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1945, according to the Bureau's annual report. Recommendations for environmental improvement were made in 2,184 plants with 219,347 employees. Engineering studies were conducted in 63 plants with 101,432 workers. A total of 1,410 follow-up visits were carried out, to check on compliance with recommendations previously made. Samples totaling 711 were collected, upon which 1,407 determinations were made.

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SOUTH CAROLINA

Acting upon the request of a company manufacturing phenyl mercurials, the Division of Industrial Health of the South Carolina State Board of Health recently made an investigation of the mercury and other hazards involved in the production processes. Dermatitis characterized by large water blisters was found to result from contact with the final products, phenyl mercuric acetate, nitrate and other salts. A sufficient amount to produce irritation was present in the atmosphere following screening and packaging operations, with a concentration of 7 to 10 mg. of mercury per liter.

It was recommended that the dusty operations be carried on away from the manufacturing plant, and that only personnel wearing protective clothing, dust hoods and gloves be permitted to enter the screening and packaging shed. Employees are required to wear respirators while carrying on dusty operations, and to bathe every few hours. Urinary mercury determinations show that these control measures are sufficient to prevent burns and the danger of chronic mercurialism.

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In the tuberculosis testing survey conducted by the Division of Tuberculosis Control in cooperation with the Division of Industrial Health, 26,358 persons were X-rayed up to August 1. The number of significant cases of tuberculosis found totaled 283, or 1.07 per cent. Of 15,221 industrial workers examined, 204 or 1.34 per cent were found to have the disease. However, the increased percentage found among industrial workers is not believed significant, because of the limited number examined and the difference in average age of the two groups.

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VIRGINIA

Postwar planning is occupying the attention of the Bureau of Industrial Hygiene, Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Health, as industry in that State reconverts to peacetime production. A re-survey of practically all plants in the State is contemplated, since it is considered that wartime production data in the Bureau's files no longer will be applicable.

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Services offered by the Bureau of Industrial Hygiene were described in a conference sponsored by the Richmond Safety Committee, when two members of the Bureau staff discussed "The Determination and Control of Industrial Health Hazards." The Bureau was invited to present similar material at future State-wide meetings.

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Among activities of the Bureau of Industrial Hygiene during the month of August were several surveys of State road camps. This study was concluded in September, and a full report with recommendations will be made.

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WEST VIRGINIA

A clear and explicit description of the uses and maintenance of the first-aid kit in industry is presented in a new pamphlet issued by the Bureau of Industrial Hygiene, West Virginia State Department of Health. The attractive folder points out that only the small plant should limit its facilities to a first-aid kit, and the maintenance of the kit and its use in cases of emergency should be the responsibility of a designated person. Proper location is described, its necessary contents are listed, and supplementary equipment to cover any type of accident emergency is explained.

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PERSONNEL NEWS AND NOTES

SURGEON (R) WALTER E. DOYLE, Chief of the Medical Unit, Industrial Hygiene Division of the U. S. Public Health Service, has just completed a tour of the States comprising Public Health District No. 3, where he made the annual evaluation of the State industrial hygiene programs. The tour covered the industrial hygiene units of the States of Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin, and the City of Detroit.

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SANITARY ENGINEER (R) LINDON J. MURPHY accompanied Dr. Doyle in visiting the Wisconsin industrial hygiene unit. It was found that this unit is receiving excellent cooperation from the State Medical Society, the Manufacturers' Association, individual industries, and other groups.

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SENIOR DENTAL SURGEON (R) LYMAN D. HEACOCK recently visited the Chicago headquarters of Public Health District No. 3, where he conferred with DENTAL SURGEON WILLIAM KROSCHER, District Dental Consultant, on the development of industrial dentistry programs in the States comprising that district.

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STATISTICIAN VICTORIA M. TRASKO of the Field Operations Section, U. S. Public Health Service Industrial Hygiene Division, visited the industrial hygiene units of Tennessee, Louisiana and Texas, where she gave assistance in the establishment of systems of uniform recording and reporting procedures.

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SENIOR ASSISTANT NURSE OFFICER EMILY M. SMITH, of the Nursing Unit, Industrial Hygiene Division, U. S. Public Health Service, has been assigned to the Bureau of Industrial Hygiene of the Detroit Department of Health, where she will initiate a new industrial nursing consultation service.

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ROBERT G. KEENAN has been commissioned Senior Assistant Scientist (R) in the U. S. Public Health Service. He has been assigned to assist SENIOR SCIENTIST (R) LAWRENCE T. FAIRHALL in toxicological investigations and consultation.

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DR. F. H. GOLDMAN, Chief of the Chemical Unit, Industrial Hygiene Division of the U. S. Public Health Service, has been commissioned Senior Scientist in the Reserve Corps of the Service.

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SENIOR SANITARY ENGINEER J. J. BLOOMFIELD, Chief of the Field Operations Section, Industrial Hygiene Division of the U. S. Public Health Service, spoke on "Teamwork in Industrial Health" in a meeting held September 14 at Kingsport, Tennessee, under the auspices of the Kingsport Safety Council. Citing the atomic bomb as a dramatic example of what united effort can accomplish, he emphasized that industrial health is the proper responsibility of all elements of the community rather than of industry and labor alone.

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PASSED ASSISTANT SANITARIAN (R) LEWIS J. CRALLEY is visiting Arkansas, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Indiana, to give advice and assistance to engineers of the State industrial hygiene units.

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SENIOR ASSISTANT NURSE OFFICER MABELLE J. MARKEE, recently assigned to the Nursing Unit of the Industrial Hygiene Division, U. S. Public Health Service, is receiving a period of training in industrial nursing practices before she enters upon her duties as a Nursing Consultant of the Division. Through the courtesy of the company's medical director, Dr. James Carlisle, she is working at present for a month with Merck & Company, of Rahway, New Jersey, performing the regular functions of a staff nurse. Following this experience, Mrs. Markee will receive at least two months of similar training in other industries.

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News items for publication in INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE NEWS LETTER should be submitted to: Senior Sanitary Engineer J. J. Bloomfield, Industrial Hygiene Division, U. S. Public Health Service, Bethesda 14, Maryland.
