

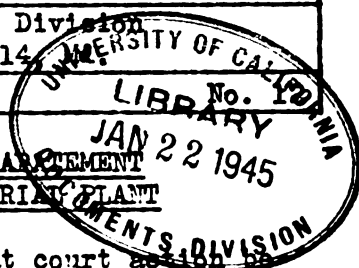
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INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE NEWS LETTER
Current News of Official Industrial Hygiene Activities

Issued monthly by the Industrial Hygiene Division
U. S. Public Health Service, Bethesda 14

Vol. 4

December 1944



CITY OFFICIALS USE INJUNCTION TO FORCE AGREEMENT
OF ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION CAUSED BY INDUSTRIAL PLANT

The mayor of a New Jersey city has asked that court action be taken to force a pigment plant in the city to end the nuisance caused by sulfur dioxide gas emanating from the plant. This action followed a conference between the city officials, the plant superintendent, and members of the New Jersey Bureau of Industrial Hygiene which had made a survey of the problem at the request of the city officials. Ways and means of eliminating this atmospheric pollution were discussed. The mayor had initiated the survey because of the constant covering of the city with gases from the plant. The research director of the industry explained that increased production due to war needs had overtaxed the plant's equipment to carry away the objectionable gases. The company, however, was willing to spend approximately \$240,000 on equipment that would control the nuisance. The Bureau of Industrial Hygiene found that the equipment needed included a Cottrell unit and spray tower to remove acid mist from the exit gases from calcining furnaces, and vacuum dehydrators to replace a group of furnaces used for dehydration purposes.

Following the recommendations made by the Bureau, the company had secured approval from the War Production Board to make part of the installations required at a cost of \$90,000. After the conference with city officials, a statement of the remaining requirements for equipment were filed with the WPB in Washington. Since several months would be needed to obtain the necessary equipment unless urgent action was taken, the city officials decided to use legal measures to insure the city's protection at the earliest possible time.

EXPOSURE TO SOLUBLE BARIUM DUST AND FUMES

The California Bureau of Industrial Hygiene has made a survey in a plant where an ore rich in barium sulfate is converted to barium oxide, barium peroxide and barium hydrate. During the various steps of the process, employees are exposed to dust or fumes of each of these soluble compounds. Measurements of concentration of dust and fume, both by particle count and weight, when correlated with subjective reaction of exposed persons, permitted the setting of tentative standards with respect to the irritative effect of the dust. The plant offers an excellent opportunity for the study of systemic effects of long time inhalation of soluble barium products. No study of this sort has yet been made by the Bureau.

LOCAL EXHAUST VENTILATION IN METALIZING OPERATIONS

An industrial plant in California has solved the problem of collecting dust and fumes from metalizing operations where these operations are performed on long parts, requiring the metalizing torch to travel several feet. A small hood was devised to surround that portion of the piece being metalized and adapted to travel along the lathe bed with the metalizing torch. Exhausting this hood was accomplished by connecting it to the blower by means of short lengths of ducts equipped with swivel elbows. The hood was designed with face velocity of 500 feet per minute and shaped to catch high velocity streams of particles rebounding from the sprayed surface.

SULFUR DIOXIDE IN DRIED FRUIT PROCESSING

A study of the exposure of workers in a fruit packing plant to sulfur dioxide gas used in treating the fruits has led to the recommendation of a new method of applying the gas. The gas has been generated by burning solid sulfur in shallow trays on the floors of treatment rooms. Since there is continuous discharge throughout the burning period of a large quantity of highly contaminated air, which not only exposes the workers in the plant but creates a nuisance in the area outside, it was recommended that this method be replaced by the injection of sulfur dioxide gas from pressure cylinders directly into tightly sealed spaces, in accordance with usual fumigation practice.

CAMPAIGN TO REDUCE ACCIDENT AND HEALTH HAZARDS IN PLANING MILLS AND SMALL WOODEN CONTAINER INDUSTRIES

A six month drive, beginning January 1, 1945, planned to reduce injuries and to eliminate health hazards in planing mills and small wooden container industries, has been initiated by the Department of Labor. A conference on this subject, called by the Division of Labor Standards, U. S. Department of Labor, on November 15, 1944, in Washington, was attended by national agencies concerned, the three trade associations representing these industries and three labor unions involved.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics has reported an extremely high accident frequency and severity in these industries. A frequency rate of 44 has been reported for planing mills and 54 for the container industry. One out of every 200 employees in the planing mills has a serious injury every year. Absenteeism from sickness in this industry has also been serious.

The Division of Labor Standards will arrange for the calling of State meetings of all interested agencies to launch the drive in those States where there are sufficient industries to warrant such meetings. Industrial Hygiene Divisions will be asked to cooperate in making surveys of occupational health hazards in these industries. The present campaign is a confirmation of similar efforts in which Industrial Hygiene Divisions have cooperated.

SICK ABSENTEEISM AND MEDICAL CERTIFICATES FOR INDUSTRIAL WORKERS

The present critical need of manpower for increased war production calls for more effort to be directed toward reduction of unnecessary absenteeism and labor turnover. Among the many factors bearing on this problem is the relation between private physicians and industrial physicians. A statement recently prepared on this subject by the Safety and Security Division, Office of the Chief of Ordnance, Army Service Forces, directed toward industrial physicians in Ordnance plants, has been called to our attention because of its applicability to all plant physicians and cooperating private physicians.

This statement says in part "To minimize absenteeism alleged to sickness and terminations attributed to ill health, the closest possible cooperation should be maintained between plant physicians and private physicians in nearby communities. Private physicians often have no accurate information concerning health hazards associated with their patients' jobs in Ordnance plants and the generally satisfactory medical and engineering measures taken for their control, and are often at a loss as to how to advise their patients regarding complaints related to work. Likewise, private physicians are not generally aware of the information concerning their patients, available from the plant physician in connection with past examinations, blood tests, X-ray findings, and other diagnostic aids."

The related problem of medical certification of illness has also been brought to our attention as a matter that should be considered by the State Industrial Hygiene Divisions. This subject was discussed in an editorial entitled, "Medical Certificates and War Production," published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, issue of November 11, 1944. The private physician's responsibility is presented in this editorial as follows: "The Government and its contracting agents customarily require medical certificates to cover an absenteeism alleged to illness or a labor termination attributed to reasons of health. The medical profession is then put under pressure by thoughtless persons who see little harm in collecting disability benefits or in obtaining better jobs on pretext of illness. They fail to see the cumulative results of hundreds of thousands of such acts on critical war production. Responsibility rests squarely on the physician to act as prosecutor, defense attorney and judge before issuing such a certificate. He fails himself, his profession and the war effort if certificates are issued without due cause."

Traditionally, the doctor has been called upon to champion and be an advocate of his patient. In the main, the patient has been the one who employed him and he has instinctively defended the patient against any or all groups having impersonal interests. The doctor is called upon to certify to this and to that. He must certify birth and death; the occurrence of contagious disease; the health of food handlers; and the freedom from disease of candidates for marriage. Health and accident policies depend to an appreciable extent on the knowledge and integrity of practicing physicians. Compensation statutes require medical judgments

as bases to support legal judgments. One easily understands why the busy doctor labels all certification a "chore." It is true that to refuse to sign any statement his patient requests, the physician risks an irate individual, but one wonders what degree of confidence and respect the patient will have in his doctor if the latter, unwittingly or not, falls in with such a procedure to circumvent common honesty.

The tendency of some workers is to indict fumes, gases, dust, etc. for real or alleged ill health. Actually, few unskilled workers know what if any occupational hazards exist in their working environment. Such a worker, in the role of a patient, may influence the family doctor to a most astounding and untenable diagnosis. It seems opportune to urge that physicians protect themselves in this respect by using confirmatory sources of information.

State and local industrial hygiene divisions can give the private physician information on the specific environmental health conditions in a particular plant on request, when there is any question concerning the possibility of illness being incurred on the job.

They can also assist industries in developing a standard form of certificate for physicians to use in making reports and can bring this subject to the attention of medical societies as opportunity offers.

PROPOSED INDUSTRIAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT

In response to several requests from State divisions of industrial hygiene for a statement of desirable provisions for State industrial hygiene laws, a "Proposed Industrial Health Service Act" has been prepared and sent to all the States. This proposed Act states the duties of a State agency in regard to the investigation of places of employment and the adoption of rules and regulations pertaining to the control of industrial health hazards. It specifies actions that should be considered violations, namely, denial of access of health department representatives to industry, and the use of harmful materials known to be dangerous to the health of the workers. Requirement of reporting of occupational diseases to the State division of industrial hygiene by physicians is also included in the proposed Act's provisions.

COURSES

The San Francisco Port of Embarkation, Army Industrial Medical Program, is offering a series of 15 lectures on Industrial Medicine and Nursing given weekly on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 9:00, beginning November 29, at the Port Dispensary, Fort Mason, California. The lectures are presented by members of the Industrial Medical Service, San Francisco Port of Embarkation, the California State Health Department, local industries and other agencies. The meetings are open to all interested persons without charge.

DERMATOSES SECTION STUDIES ANTI-MILDEW PREPARATIONS

A development of the present war is the widespread use of anti-mildews in processing of fabrics. As a result, the Dermatoses Section of the Industrial Hygiene Division has received many requests from manufacturers, agencies of the War Department and foreign governments for information regarding their toxicity. The Section has tested the skin irritating properties of nearly 100 of the anti-mildew preparations and forwarded the results to agencies authorized to receive them.

STATE ACTIVITIES

COLORADO: The Industrial Hygiene Division is cooperating with other divisions of the Colorado State Board of Health in developing public health services in the isolated coal and metal mine communities in the State.

Authorization has been given for the employment of an industrial nursing consultant in the Industrial Hygiene Division. Applications for this position will be welcomed.

A group of industrial nurses in the State has indicated interest in forming an industrial nurses' association, and requested the cooperation of the Industrial Hygiene Division in getting organized. At the recent annual meeting of the State Nurses' Association, a panel was held on industrial health. The Director of the Division of Industrial Hygiene spoke on "The Role of the Industrial Nurse."

CONNECTICUT: A Joint Conference on Industrial Health and Safety, under the auspices of the Connecticut State Medical Society and the Manufacturers Association of Connecticut, was held in New Haven on December 14. Panel discussions were held on "The Physically and Mentally Handicapped Worker," "Rehabilitation of the Industrial Worker," and "Safeguarding the Industrial Worker."

At a meeting of the American Industrial Radium & X-ray Society, Connecticut Valley Section, held in Hartford, November 20, medical problems involved in handling radium were discussed by Dr. Roy M. Seideman of the Bureau of Industrial Hygiene. Preventive measures in the use of radioactive compounds were discussed by Charles DeSimone, Industrial Hygienist at Pratt and Whitney Aircraft Corporation.

IOWA: For the first time in Iowa, an industrial hygiene course, supplemented by "in-plant" experience, has been provided for nurses. This course was inaugurated by Iowa Methodist Hospital in Des Moines. The course was made possible through the cooperation of the Division of Industrial Hygiene, Iowa Department of Health. Lectures were given by Dr. Bruce Brown, Acting Medical Director, Mr. N. C. Burbank, Jr., Industrial Hygiene Chemist and Mrs. Eva W. Hague, Industrial Nursing Consultant. The lectures were followed by two weeks of fulltime participation in the industrial nursing program conducted at the Des Moines plant of the U. S. Rubber Company.

KENTUCKY: The 35 mm. photofluorographic X-ray unit owned by the Kentucky State Health Department is now being loaned by the Division of Tuberculosis Control to the Bureau of Industrial Hygiene for making chest X-rays of all workers in all the silica brick industries in the State.

MICHIGAN: The Bureau of Industrial Health has established a new district with an office at Battle Creek. Yale Rosenfeld, Assistant Sanitary Engineer (R), U. S. Public Health Service, will be in charge of this district with headquarters in the Calhoun County Health Department.

Another district will be created with an office located at Lansing. This district will be in charge of George E. Tubich, Engineer, Bureau of Industrial Health.

NEW JERSEY: The second series of courses in industrial hygiene engineering given by Rutgers University, in cooperation with the Bureau of Industrial Health under the ESMWT program, was begun in November. Mr. J. C. Radcliffe, Industrial Hygiene Engineer of the Bureau is instructor for the two groups, one being held at Newark and one at New Brunswick.

A reunion was recently held in Newark of those who took the two ESMWT courses given by Rutgers University in Newark last spring. Thirty-five members attended the reunion. Dr. J. M. Dalla Valle, Consulting Engineer, addressed the group on "What to Expect of an Exhaust System and How to Test its Performance." A committee was formed to make arrangements for subsequent meetings. The group plans to meet four times a year. So far as is known this is the first industrial hygiene group to organize in New Jersey.

NORTH CAROLINA: The North Carolina Division of Industrial Hygiene is making a survey of the furniture manufacturing plants in the State. Several plants have already been visited.

PENNSYLVANIA: At the request of the War Manpower Commission, the Bureau of Industrial Hygiene will survey fifty foundries in the State.

SOUTH CAROLINA: The Shipbuilding and Drydock Company at Charleston, South Carolina, won the Navy and the Maritime Sixth Naval Districts Safety Award for making the best improvement in accident frequency for the second quarter of 1944. The record for the third quarter shows continued improvement and the best record of the company's history has been made. Today lost time from metal fume poisoning is rare, whereas two years ago an average of 30-40 cases per month was usual.

WEST VIRGINIA: An industrial nurses' section was organized in the West Virginia State Nurses' Association at its annual meeting held in Wheeling, October 26-28, 1944. Miss Christine M. Sinkula of the Weirton Steel Company was appointed chairman, and Miss Ethel P. Schilling, Domestic Coke Company, co-chairman of the new section.

PERSONNEL

Effective December 1, Mr. Vaughn H. Hill has joined the staff of the Michigan Bureau of Industrial Health as an Industrial Hygiene Engineer.

Dr. Paul C. Campbell, Jr., P. A. Surgeon, reported for active duty with the Dermatoses Staff, Industrial Hygiene Division, U. S. Public Health Service, on December 1, 1944.

Dr. Irving R. Tabershaw, Surgeon (R), assigned to the Massachusetts Division of Occupational Hygiene for the past three years, will be assigned to the Alabama Department of Public Health to serve as Director of the Division of Industrial Hygiene, reporting about January 1, 1945.

Dr. N. J. Carrozzo, P. A. Surgeon, will become a member of the Medical Unit, Industrial Hygiene Division, U. S. Public Health Service on January 1, 1945. He will receive training in the Connecticut Bureau of Industrial Hygiene.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Bulletin on Lead Determination

The Subcommittee on Chemical Procedures, Industrial Hygiene Section, American Public Health Association, has made available a report on "Methods for Determining Lead in Air and in Biological Materials." The report was prepared by J. Cholak, Assistant Professor, Kettering Laboratory of Applied Physiology, University of Cincinnati, at the request of this subcommittee in cooperation with the Committee on Lead Poisoning. Copies may be purchased from the American Public Health Association, 1790 Broadway, New York 19, N. Y., price 75¢.

Posters for Food Handlers

A series of six restaurant sanitation posters, featuring practices food handlers should observe, have been prepared by the U. S. Public Health Service for use in all types of food serving establishments. These posters may be purchased from the Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., at a cost of 25¢ per set, with 25% discount on 100 or more sets.

Job Safety Posters

The U. S. Department of Labor has made available two new posters, or rather two 10 x 30 sheets, carrying a design on both sides, reproduced from originals published by the British Ministry of Labour. The titles of these posters are: "See Over Your Load," "Yank Them Out," "Beware of Sharp Edges," and "Keep Oil Off Floors." Copies may be obtained without charge from V. A. Zimmer, Director, Division of Labor Standards, U. S. Department of Labor, Washington 25, D. C.

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, Md.

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INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE NEWS LETTER Current News of Official Industrial Hygiene Activities

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Vol. 5

January 1945

No. 1

ABSENTEE SICKNESS RATE SOARS TO REFLECT WARTIME CONDITIONS

Absenteeism due to sickness among male industrial workers showed a substantial increase for the third quarter of 1944, shooting the total industrial sickness rate in this year up to 37 per cent above average for the period 1935-1944, according to statistics released by the Industrial Hygiene Division of the U. S. Public Health Service.

Nonrespiratory-nondigestive diseases rose 15 per cent above a like period in the previous year. Conditions contributing to this record included a 26 per cent increase in rheumatism, a 29 per cent increase in neurasthenia and other diseases of nervous or mental origin, and a 34 per cent increase in diseases of the genitourinary system.

The incidence of rheumatic diseases, diseases of the heart and arteries, nephritis, and nervous diseases has never been equalled or exceeded within the past decade. Nervous diseases showed the highest rate of increase, rising 76 per cent above the ten-year mean.

The rate of respiratory diseases, while slightly lower than in 1943, was 32 per cent above average for the decade. Digestive diseases also rose to a rate exceeding anything experienced within the ten-year period.

Employment conditions peculiar to wartime are now responsible. Categories of disease showing the highest increase involve mainly older workers. The hiring of workers long unemployed or retired is one factor held to contribute to the record sickness rate, as is the employment of youths and other inexperienced personnel, and the necessity for employing in industry men rejected by the armed services.

Wartime working and living conditions are thought to be reflected, since other factors held accountable include emotional strain and personal mental conflict, overcrowding in plants and war communities, fatigue due to the lengthened work week, and night work.

DERMATOPHYTOSIS INVESTIGATION

Results of a study of dermatophytosis in industry, reported by the Dermatoses Section of the Industrial Hygiene Division, U. S. Public Health Service, show this type of fungous infection to be unimportant as a cause of lost time among industrial workers.

Object of the study was the gathering of data relative to (1) the incidence of dermatophytosis in industry, (2) possible spread of this infection in industrial shower and locker rooms, (3) the relationship of dermatophytosis and industrial dermatitis, and (4) the differential diagnoses between dermatophytids and industrial dermatitis of the hands.

Workers from various parts of the Nation were examined for fungous infections of the hands and feet. Of the total number, nearly 28 per cent were clinically positive, 33.3 per cent doubtful, and the remainder negative. Sex made no apparent difference, but season of the year was found to be an important factor in the incidence, with the highest number of infected individuals found during the summer months.

Shower room flooring was held to be a possible but not likely source of fungous infection of the feet. A type of copper-impregnated flooring investigated was found to be of no value in preventing spread of the infection.

Allergic contact dermatitis was shown to bear no relationship to dermatophytosis. An allergy to this type of fungus or its products appeared to be unrelated to other dermamic conditions handicapping industrial workers, and to be of little importance as a factor in lost time.

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POOR LIGHTING FOUND IN GOVERNMENT OFFICES

Government offices in Washington were revealed, in many instances, to have lighting inadequate for the work done in them, by an investigation recently made by the Engineering Unit of the Industrial Hygiene Division.

It was found that accountants and statisticians were working under light of three to four foot candles, where the minimum amount proper for this type of work is 50 foot candles. Large numbers of clerks, typists, and others were found struggling under a like handicap.

Where direct-type incandescent lights were installed as a remedial measure, these were found sometimes to provide an adequate level of illumination, but with undesirable quality because of glare, brightness contrasts, and point sources of light within the field of vision.

Improper arrangement of desks with respect to light sources was another common error.

"Unfortunately, Government agencies have lagged far behind industry in their appreciation of proper lighting and its relation to employee efficiency, morale, and eye health," declared the report. "Government office employees are working longer hours and more intensively during the present emergency. To those doing work requiring close application, the added eye burden of inadequate illumination is a serious one.

"Remedial measures may be justified on the basis of increased employee accuracy and efficiency alone," the report continued. "Until such remedial measures have been completed, continued employee complaints can be expected, with consequent high labor turnover and reduced employee efficiency."

Properly engineered fluorescent lighting systems generally have been recommended.

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ATHLETE'S FOOT FUNGUS YIELDS NEW ANTI-BIOTIC

A substance antagonistic to certain micro-organisms, and similar in some respects to penicillin, has been found in the course of dermatophytosis investigations by the Division of Infectious Diseases of the National Institute of Health and the Dermatoses Section of the Industrial Hygiene Division. This anti-biotic substance was seen as a product of fungi occurring in clinical lesions of dermatophytosis.

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DERMATITIS FROM POTATO DEHYDRATION

Discovery of the cause of dermatitis resulting from the dehydration of potatoes, which has been a source of trouble to dehydrating plants preparing this product for the Armed Forces and Lend-Lease, has been reported by the Dermatoses Section of the Industrial Hygiene Division, U. S. Public Health Service.

Recommendations proposed to the companies involved have succeeded in eliminating most of these cases of dermatitis.

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NEW PAMPHLET IN WORKERS' HEALTH SERIES

"That Tired Feeling" is the latest title to be added to the pamphlets in the Workers' Health Series, issued by the U. S. Public Health Service.

Explaining in lively layman's language the causes and cure of fatigue unrelated to any pathologic condition, it is valuable for use in a worker education program. The booklet, cheerfully illustrated in two colors, is the same handy small size as the others in this series.

"That Tired Feeling" may be ordered at 5¢ for a single copy, \$1.50 per hundred, or \$15.00 per thousand. A poster suitable for bulletin boards, on the same theme, is priced at 5¢ per single copy. Send orders to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

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Harry W. Boogaert, formerly Industrial Hygiene Chemist with the California Bureau of Industrial Hygiene, has accepted a similar position with the Los Angeles County Division of Industrial Hygiene.

P. A. Surgeon Bruce M. Brown, formerly on assignment to the Iowa industrial hygiene unit, has been placed on inactive status, in order to accept an appointment with the Illinois Department of Public Health as Chief of the Division of Industrial Hygiene. He assumed his new duties on December 1, 1944.

Mrs. Olive Whitlock Klump, formerly nursing consultant of the Industrial Hygiene Division, U. S. Public Health Service, has recently been appointed nursing consultant for the Los Angeles County Division of Industrial Hygiene.

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* * * Supplementary to this issue of your Industrial Hygiene News Letter, you will find your new DIRECTORY OF STATE AND LOCAL INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE PERSONNEL. Hereafter, the Directory will be issued twice a year, in January and July. Send your order for additional copies to Senior Sanitary Engineer J. J. Bloomfield, Industrial Hygiene Division, U. S. Public Health Service, Washington 14 (Bethesda Station), D. C.

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ACTIVITIES AMONG THE STATES

CALIFORNIA

Direct contact with labor unions whose members had complained about conditions pertaining to shipyard welding has been made by the Division of Industrial Hygiene of the Los Angeles City Health Department, reports Dr. D. G. Macpherson, Director.

This has proved to be a highly effective method of getting at the source of complaints, leading to studies aimed at specific points of danger or irritation, he declares. Particularly in some of the smaller shipyards where health protective measures are still relatively undeveloped and management sometimes none too cooperative, this method has been found by the division to be an excellent guide to action. In addition, it has served as a successful method of industrial health education for officials of the unions involved.

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To help plant management carry out recommendations in regard to safety clothing and devices, a guide listing 170 firms which manufacture personal protective equipment has been prepared by the Division of Industrial Hygiene of the Los Angeles City Health Department.

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The shortage of laboratory equipment which is troubling so many industrial hygiene divisions has been circumvented by the Division of Industrial Hygiene of the Los Angeles City Health Department, Dr. Macpherson reports, by means of a cooperative arrangement with a large aircraft plant having the analytical equipment needed.

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COLORADO

The Colorado Division of Industrial Hygiene has been invited to take an active part in formulating the "Colorado Occupational Disease Bill", which will be introduced in the current legislative session, reports Mr. A. T. Rossano, Jr., Director of the Division.

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CONNECTICUT

Dr. Albert S. Gray, Director of the Bureau of Industrial Hygiene, Connecticut State Department of Health, participated in a conference on the problems involved in the employment of handicapped workers, held at New Haven, December 14.

The conference, under the auspices of the Connecticut State Medical Society and the Manufacturers Association of Connecticut, dealt with this subject from many aspects. Management's views, the industrial physician's role in proper placement and guidance, mental problems, safety problems, control of environmental hazards,

and rehabilitation activities of the Connecticut Vocational Rehabilitation Service and of insurance carriers were reviewed in detail.

Chairmen of the three panel sessions were Dr. C. F. Yeager, Chief Medical Supervisor of the Remington Arms Company, Bridgeport; Mr. W. Adam Johnson, Commercial Secretary of the Manufacturers Association of Connecticut; and Dr. Gray. The evening session heard a talk by Lt. Col. Raymond Hussey, Director of the Army Industrial Hygiene Laboratory, Baltimore, on "Postwar Development of Industrial Health Services."

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MICHIGAN

"X-ray and Radium Hazards" was the subject of a talk by Dr. K. E. Corrigan, radiological physicist and director of the Research Laboratory at Harper Hospital, before the January meeting of the Michigan Industrial Hygiene Society.

Increasing use of X-ray and radium in industry, and the accident and health hazards associated with these processes, made this meeting of unusual interest to the audience, which included not only safety engineers and industrial hygienists but physicians, X-ray technicians, and nurses.

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NEW JERSEY

Investigation of a diethylstilbestrol health hazard in a pharmaceutical manufacturing plant was made by the Bureau of Industrial Health of the New Jersey State Department of Health, as a result of complaints from male workers that they were experiencing bilateral enlargement of breast tissue and other symptoms of excessive absorption of this drug.

Breathing of dust emanating from the drying and screening operations, which are the final phases in preparation of this synthetically produced estrogen, was found to be causing the difficulty. The installation of local exhaust equipment, together with better enclosure of the two operations, resulted in disappearance of the symptoms among the plant's workers.

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A study of the mercury hazard in pharmaceutical, scientific glassware, and tungsten manufacturing plants has been concluded by the engineering and chemical personnel of the Bureau of Industrial Health. Mercury vapor and dust determinations were made in each plant.

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The Bureau of Industrial Health presented information and exhibits at the December meeting of the South Jersey Safety Council. Clinical pathology, methods of collecting siliceous dusts, chemical methods of determining free silica, and compensation aspects of the disease were demonstrated and discussed.

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SOUTH CAROLINA

A mass movement toward physical examination of employees in the textile mills of South Carolina has resulted from efforts made by the Division of Industrial Health of the State Board of Health to educate manufacturers in the advantages of an active health program.

Nurses of the Division carried the message from one mill to another. Leading mills, with personnel services including good health programs, were having so much less trouble securing and keeping capable workers that less progressive mills became convinced of the competitive advantages to be obtained from placement based upon preemployment examination and periodic follow-up examination. The improved economic position of textile mills at the present time is making rapid development in this direction possible.

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WASHINGTON

Employment and working conditions resulting from the war have increased the dangers of lead poisoning among orchard workers in north-central Washington, it is reported by Dr. Lloyd M. Farner, head of the Industrial and Adult Hygiene Section of the Division of Preventive Medical Services, Washington State Department of Health.

Among 19 cases of illness recently investigated by the Section, nine were found to be lead poisoning, resulting from the use of lead arsenate as an insecticide in codling moth control. Shortage of labor leading to continuous exposure of some workers for as long as 70 hours a week, and inadequate education of new workers in the hazards involved in their occupation, were held to be basic reasons for the sharp increase last year in the incidence of lead poisoning.

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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, Md.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

(Supplement to Publications List of the Industrial Hygiene Division, U. S. Public Health Service, and the Industrial Hygiene Research Laboratory, National Institute of Health, October to December 1944)

DERMATOSES

THE INCIDENCE AND PREVENTION OF DERMATITIS FROM TEXTILE FINISHES. Louis Schwartz. Transactions of the 32nd National Safety Congress, 1943, Vol. 1.

ALLERGIC OCCUPATIONAL DERMATITIS IN OUR WAR INDUSTRIES. Louis Schwartz. Ann. Allergy, 2: 387-93 (Sept.-Oct. 1944).

OCCUPATIONAL DERMATITIS IN THE FOOD INDUSTRY. Louis Schwartz. Indus. Med., 13: 899-900 (Nov. 1944).

EYES

DISTRIBUTION OF MITOSES IN THE EPITHELIUM OF THE CORNEA. Berwin Kaufmann, Helen Gay, and Alexander Hollaender. Anat. Rec., 90: #2 (Oct. 1944).

INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE (GENERAL)

INTEGRATION OF INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE IN THE PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM. J. J. Bloomfield. Indus. Med., 13: 838-42 (Oct. 1944).

INDUSTRIAL MEDICAL SERVICES

Industrial Dentistry

DENTISTRY'S PLACE IN INDUSTRIAL HEALTH SERVICE. L. D. Heacock. Harvard Public Health Alumni Bull., 1: 48-52 (Nov. 1944).

Industrial Nurses & Nursing

COUNSELING AND GUIDANCE FOR NURSES IN INDUSTRY. F. Ruth Kahl. Am. Jour. Nursing, 44: 940-41 (Oct. 1944).

MORBIDITY

STUDIES ON THE DURATION OF DISABLING SICKNESS. VI. TIME LOST FROM SHORT-TERM ABSENCES AND ITS RELATION TO TOTAL TIME LOST. W. M. Gafafer and R. Sitgreaves. Pub. Health Repts., 59: 1311-20 (Oct. 6, 1944). Reprint No. 2579.

RADIATION

THE EFFECT OF MONOCHROMATIC ULTRAVIOLET RADIATION ON INFLUENZA VIRUS AS COMPARED WITH OTHER VIRUSES. Alexander Hollaender and J. W. Oliphant. Jour. Bact., 47: 471 (May 1944).

THE INACTIVATING EFFECT OF MONOCHROMATIC ULTRAVIOLET RADIATION ON INFLUENZA VIRUS. Alexander Hollaender and J. W. Cliphant. Jour. Bact., 48: 447-54 (Oct. 1944).

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THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ABSORBED RADIUM AS INDICATED BY THE COEFFICIENT OF ELIMINATION. Frank E. Hoecker. Jour. Indus. Hyg. & Toxicol., 26: 289-95 (Nov. 1944).

TOXIC SUBSTANCES

Analysis

A MICRO-MINER TO FACILITATE PREPARATION OF TISSUE EXTRACTS. W. C. Alford and E. C. Palmes. Jour. Lab. & Clin. Med., 29: 1104-6 (Oct. 1944).

Physiological Effects

HEALTH HAZARDS IN CADMIUM PLATING. P. A. Neal, L. T. Fairhall, and K. Gustaf Soderburg. The Iron Age, p. 63 (Oct. 5, 1944).

THE ACUTE EFFECTS OF CUMENE VAPORS IN MICE. H. W. Werner, R. C. Dunn, and W. F. von Oettingen. Jour. Indus. Hyg. & Toxicol., 26: 264-68 (Oct. 1944).