Kilbreath

8th Annual Meeting

INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE FOUNDATION

- *Foundation Facts*
- *Government Role in Employer-Employee Relationship*
- *Industrial Noise-A National Problem*
- *Socio-Economic Aspects of Alcoholism*
- *Human Relations Problems in Industries—*
  - *As They Affect* ***Labor***
  - *Responsibilities of* ***Management***
  - *As Influenced by* ***Extramural Activities***
  - Need for ***Research***
- *Member Companies Sick Absenteeism*

TRANSACTIONS BULLETIN No. 26
1953

INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE FOUNDATION OF AMERICA
MELLON INSTITUTE
4400 FIFTH AVENUE PITTSBURGH 13, PA.

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istic, but because the relationship of industrial health with all the other health fields is becoming increasingly evident. It is directly allied with public health in that a workman must be kept healthy 24 hours a day if he is to do an efficient job for 8 of those hours. Therefore, progressive managements concern themselves with the physical and mental well-being of the worker, his family, his whole community. Physical examinations of employees catch nonoccupational diseases in their incipient stages while there is still time to effect a cure. Physical defects are also uncovered and make it possible to place the man on a job commensurate with his physical condition, thereby prolonging his economically productive years. Health education in the plant is reflected in improved living standards outside its walls. Everybody benefits, including the employer.

Essential Part of Management Program

In certain companies, in-plant health programs have reduced absenteeism by more than 29%, labor turnover by almost the same, and have cut occupational diseases in half. Considered in this light it is obvious that a good industrial health program is an essential part of any management program in industry. I don't need to spell out to you the disrupting and costly effect that absenteeism alone has on production. The savings through reduction in absenteeism can easily offset the cost of a health program.

To achieve the best possible working and living conditions for their employees, many industries have turned to Industrial Hygiene Foundation for guidance. Although we have shown a continuing growth over the last 18 years, I am happy to say that 1953 has been one of our most satisfactory, as evidenced by:

Twelve new members—

Can Manufacturers Institute, Inc.
Continental Can Company
Sugar Beet Products Company
McLean Manufacturing Company
Kennecott Copper Corporation
Doehler-Jarvis Division, National Lead Company
Rem-Cru Titanium, Inc.
Owens-Corning Fiberglas Corporation
McLain Fire Brick Company
Johnson and Johnson
Ruberoid Company
St. Regis Paper Company

Increase in Budgeted Expenditures: to over $250,000
Excess of Receipts over Expenditures: of at least $10,000
Year-End Cash and Securities: of at least $150,000

Among the interesting work now in hand is the complete environmental survey for one of the large U.S. railroads, which includes the training of one of their full-time and several part-time men, as well as the progress being made in the noise research program. More than 600 special studies have been made by the Foundation for its member companies to date. The majority, about 400, were extensive field surveys. Some 60 more studies were made on specific phases of industrial problems encountered in the plants. In addition, the Foundation's specialists in engineering, medicine, chemistry, and toxicology have made nearly 150 consultation visits throughout the country. But the Foundation's work is not confined to the field. Forty-two basic research studies have been conducted at the Foundation's laboratories here at Mellon Institute, and more than 125 analytical studies have been made.

A number of the projects carried out by the Foundation have been on an industry-wide basis so that many companies not directly involved in the research have benefited from them. Two hundred eighteen companies and associations have taken advantage of the field services offered by the Foundation, many on a plant-wide basis. Many more have presented smaller problems and inquiries by correspondence, and hundreds of requests for literature on industrial hygiene are received each year. In addition to the monthly Industrial Hygiene Digest, which is sent to nearly 2,000 persons designated by the member companies, technical papers by staff members and transactions of the annual meetings and conferences are also distributed. Nearly 300 such publications have been released to date.

New Processes Create New Health Problems

The companies which have availed themselves of the services offered by the Foundation have better industrial health programs to show for it. But even in the most conscientiously managed companies there is still room for improvement. Constant changes occurring in nature of materials and methods of processing, especially in the rapidly expanding use of chemicals in all industries, create new industrial hygiene problems. Because a working environment was judged "fairly safe" a dozen years ago is no guarantee that hazards have not developed in the meantime. An industrial hygiene program cannot remain static any more than production methods can go on unchanged year after year.

Proceedings

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