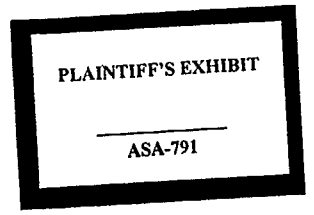
Memos to Members

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Number Seventeen

Fall 1978

A Letter from the President of IHF

to Its Member Companies

To those of us of the staff, the benefits of IHF membership are so obvious that we may fail to realize that they are perhaps not so fully appreciated by our member companies or by potential members.

For example, we are acutely aware, and may assume that everyone is aware, that in the preparation of the monthly Digest, nearly 100 scientific journals are reviewed and articles of possible interest to the members carefully abstracted. For a member company to do this would require many man-hours, to say nothing of the aggregate cost of subscriptions to the abstracted journals. Beginning January 1, 1979, the Industrial Hygiene Digest will be published for members only.

We know that the scientific symposia we present have made important contributions to sound scientific knowledge about the health effects of silica, carbon monoxide, metals, solvents, and chromium compounds, to name a few, and that the Proceedings of these meetings have been useful. Beyond this, they have provided an opportunity for our larger member companies, who have the most experience and the most expertise, to share it with others and with the standard-setting and regulatory agencies.

Our popular short courses for the continuing education of Industrial Hygiene Engineers, Physicians, and Nurses have served to upgrade the competence of these professionals, enhancing their value to the companies for whom they work and to the employees they serve. In the same way, individual training by IHF professionals has assisted a number of staff personnel from member companies to do a better job in the health field. Each year the Foundation structures off-the-record discussionals on Industrial Hygiene Engineering, Toxicology, and Chemistry. These are open to representatives of member companies only, and are held without cost to the attendees.

Speaking of training, throughout the history of the Foundation many professionals who gained broad experience here have taken their expertise to member companies and become valuable, well trained employees for them.

(Information contained herein is expressly for IHF Members; not for re-publication without permission.)

To us, answering inquiries and providing consultation is part of our everyday activity, but probably many members do not know that we respond daily to questions dealing with ventilation, sampling and analytical methods, standards and proposed standards, and all kinds of methodology in industrial health and hygiene. Our library is possibly one of the most complete in this specialized field, and we have nearly 50,000 abstracts on file.

IHF's fully accredited Analytical Laboratory and the people who staff it are capable of analyzing with accuracy a wide range of samples, both biological and environmental. The Toxicology Laboratory conducts range-finding and long-term inhalation or feeding studies on all sorts of potentially toxic substances. Both laboratories have been provided in recent years with modern equipment and instrumentation. Fees for laboratory work are set taking into consideration the fact that members have already paid dues.

Available only to individual member companies are the very valuable medical and industrial hygiene surveys, conducted by experienced professionals. These services too, are charged for at cost, taking into consideration the membership dues. Our staff can be an extension of your professional and technical staff in all matters of occupational health and safety.

Another service which IHF renders, and which is becoming more and more important, is that of conducting epidemiologic studies covering morbidity or mortality among persons with exposure to suspected toxic substances. These studies, usually extensive, are best suited to the needs of large companies or assoications of companies with the same exposures. IHF also serves as the administrative scientific base for companies in the same industry who wish to sponsor this and other kinds of health research within the guidelines of the Anti-Trust Laws.

As I said, we know all this, but we sometimes forget that everyone doesn't. If your company or association fully uses the services IHF makes available, we know their value fully justifies the cost of membership.

Sincerely,

Daniel C. Braun, M.D.
President

ASARCO ELP 0005262

A Slide and Sound Presentation

The Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union has produced a slide and sound presentation, "Asbestos: Fighting a Killer." It was made possible by a grant from American Income Life Insurance Company.

It documents the dangers of asbestos, the fiber that shows up in almost every workplace, in schools, and in our communities.

Here is what it includes: (1) A self-contained 30-minute presentation of 137 color slides assembled in a carousel tray ready for use; (2) The sound track, on a tape cassette; (3) A handsome carrying case for the carousel and tape; (4) A full script of the show and additional important information about the dangers of asbestos and OSHA's regulations regarding this widely-used substance.

The purchase price (including mailing) is $125. For information write to Anthony Mazzocchi, Oil Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union, 1126 16th Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20036.

Hazards of the working environment do not stop at the plant gate; they extend to the community at large. For this reason and others, OCAW has begun developing a continuing series of posters on the hazards of the working environment. The first two posters in the "Hazards" series are available . . . one on Asbestos, the other on Hydrogen Sulfide. For information write to OCAW at the above address.

Survey Predicts Shortage of Occupational Health and Safety Professionals

A chronic shortage of occupational physicians and nurses as well as safety personnel is predicted for the next decade, according to a 60-page report called "A Nationwide Survey of the Occupational Safety and Health Work Force" just published by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. The report says that the number of employees in the field will increase from 94,000 to nearly 105,000 in the

(contd. on p. 4)

COMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER 6-8, 1978

Recognition, Evaluation, and Control of Occupational Health Hazards

Industrial Hygiene Training Course
Intermediate Level

Holiday Inn, Sewickley, PA

DECEMBER 11-14, 1978

New Concepts of Occupational Medicine Under OSHA

A Course for Physicians in Industry

Dutch Inn, Orlando, FL

JANUARY 8, 1979

*Chemical Discussional

IHF Members Only

JANUARY 9, 1979

*Toxicology Discussional

IHF Members Only

JANUARY 10-11, 1979

*Engineering Discussional

IHF Members Only

Pittsburgh Hilton
Pittsburgh, PA

*The dates and sequence of the three Discussionals have been arranged so that attendees of one Discussional, having interest in another Discussional's agenda, may, by allocating additional time, attend other meeting(s). Many registrants took advantage of this opportunity last year.

ASARCO ELP 0005263

decade studied, but that this anticipated growth will not be large enough to meet the needs.

Since NIOSH is responsible for providing "an adequate supply of qualified personnel to carry out the purposes of the OSHAct of 1970," the nationwide survey was made to determine where future emphasis of NIOSH's professional training efforts should go. Some 3,300 firms each of which employs more than 100 workers responded to the NIOSH survey questionnaire. Single copies of the report (NIOSH 78-164) are available from Publication Dissemination, DTS, NIOSH, Robert A. Taft Laboratories, 4676 Columbia Parkway, Cincinnati, OH 45226.

Chartbook on 1976 Injuries, Illnesses

The Bureau of Labor Statistics has available at no charge copies of its "Chartbook on Occupational Injuries and Illnesses in 1976."

BLS staff explained that this publication includes all of the bureau's charts analyzing 1976 workplace injuries and illnesses as well as the tables and analysis included in a version of the book available from the National Technical Information Service. The NTIS book is not available free of charge.

Copies of the BLS publication are available from the Office of Occupational Safety and Health Statistics, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Room C4311, Department of Labor, Washington, DC 20210.

NEW IHF MEMBERS

Name	Location
Alberta Dept. of Labour	Edmonton, Canada
General Alloy Casting Co.	Rochester, PA
Roux Laboratories, Inc.	Jacksonville, FL
Fisher Controls Co.	Coraopolis, PA
M&T Chemicals, Inc.	Rahway, NJ
Pennsylvania Power Co.	Shippingport, PA

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Blaine B. Westcott, former vice president of research for the Gulf Oil Corporation, died in Pittsburgh on October 2, 1978. Dr. Westcott served as chairman of the board of trustees of IHF from October 1961 until May, 1964.

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