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INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS AND HYGIENE SERIES

DEATHS FROM LEAD POISONING

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DEATHS FROM LEAD POISONING

33

... and one in
 ... of these
 ... lead poison-
 ... the direct
 ... conveyed through

...ured" was 103.
 ...ion of deaths

... OF UNKNOWN

	Num- ber	Per cent
...	15	14.6
...	2	2.9
...	103	100.0

...ly suggestive
 ...imated on the
 ... previous occu-
 ...ction with pro-
 ... rather curious
 ...ing from water
 ...ccurred was in
 ... Cook County
 ...vement of kid-
 ...on and mercury
 ...eise of special
 ...that investiga-
 ...the death cer-
 ...s to the specific
 ... or conditions

...isoning, at an
 ...e of special sig-
 ...few exceptions
 ... in industrial
 ... large and de-
 ...nods of life the

... AGE GROUPS

	Num- ber	Per cent
...	11	22.9
...	3	10.4
...	48	100.0

... and ...

As in the case of farmers there is in the case of women an extraor-
 dinary geographical distribution, with a peculiar concentration of
 the deaths in Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts. In the
 State of Maine there occurred 16 deaths of women from chronic
 lead poisoning, distributed by counties as follows: Franklin County,
 8, in 2 of which death was attributed directly to lead absorption from
 water conveyed through lead pipes; Oxford County, 3, in 1 of which
 death was attributed to lead poisoning by drinking water which passed
 through 30 feet of lead pipe; Kennebec County, 2; Cumberland
 County, 1; Androscoggin County, 1; and Penobscot County, 1.

In New Hampshire there were 7 deaths, distributed as follows:
 Carroll County, 2; Grafton County, 2; and 1 each in Hillsboro,
 Merrimac, and Cheshire Counties. In the one which occurred in
 Cheshire County, in the city of Keene, death was attributed to chronic
 lead poisoning from the domestic water supply.

In Massachusetts 7 deaths occurred, distributed as follows: Wor-
 cester County, 2; Hampshire County, 2; Middlesex County, 2; and
 Plymouth County, 1. The death in Plymouth County was attributed
 to water from lead pipes, one death in Middlesex County, in the city
 of Lowell, being attributed to "lead poisoning as the result of hair
 dyes." The death in Dracut, Middlesex County, was attributed to
 the water supply, and likewise a death in Worcester was attributed
 to drinking water drawn through a lead pipe.

In Connecticut 1 death occurred; in New York, 1; in New Jersey,
 1; in Pennsylvania, 2; in Ohio, 4; in Missouri, 4. One of these
 deaths, the case of a woman 34 years of age, was attributed to "lead
 poisoning from using white flake face powder." The remainder of
 the deaths occurred, 1 in Indiana, 1 in Illinois, 1 in Kentucky, 1 in
 Kansas, and 1 in Louisiana attributed to drinking water from a roof
 painted red. Only 5 of the 48 deaths were of unmarried women,
 suggesting the seriousness of the deaths from a social economic point
 of view, in that 43 were married and no doubt, in many cases,
 mothers. As shown before, 18 of the deaths were of women between
 30 and 50 years of age. The evidence is quite suggestive that in
 most of the cases deaths were directly the result of drinking con-
 taminated water but particularly so in the cases in the States of
 Maine, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts.

BOYS UNDER 18

There were 11 deaths of boys under 18. The youngest of these
 was only 9 months of age, it being stated that death was caused by
 the "unwarranted use of lead ointments by the parents." The
 death occurred in Welleaville, Columbiana County, Ohio. The sec-
 ond death occurred at the age of 1 year and 7 months, it being at-
 tributed to "eating paint." This death occurred in New Orleans.
 The third death, which occurred in Baltimore, was that of a boy
 1 year and 10 months, and was also attributed to "eating paint off
 toys." A death in Franklin County, Me., occurred at the age of
 5 years and 4 months. Another death in Baltimore, that of a boy
 6 years and 11 months old, was attributed to "eating paint and
 enamel off toys," while another in the same city at the age of 7 years
 and 9 months was attributed to "playing in a paint shop." Other
 deaths were 1 at 11 years and 7 months, a boy in Reynolds County,

Mo.: 1 at 16 years of age, a school boy in Scott County, Minn.; 1 at the age of 17 years and 4 months in King County, Wash., the death being attributed to "chewing lead foil." There was also a death at the age of 17 years and 3 months of a boy who died in the city of Indianapolis.

GIRLS UNDER 18

There were 8 deaths of girls under 18 regarding which the following details are of interest. One girl died in New Haven, Conn., at the age of 10 months, death being attributed to the infant having "gnawed lead paint from the side of the bed." One at the age of 11 months occurred in Madison County, Ill. The third death occurred at the age of 2 years and 4 months in Westchester County, N. Y., being attributed to "eating paint from window sill and paint can." The fourth case occurred in New Rochelle, N. Y., at the age of 2 years 8 months; the fifth case in Boston, Mass., at the age of 3 years and 1 month; the sixth case in Cleveland, Ohio, at the age of 3 years and 2 months, it being attributed to "eating enamel off bed"; the seventh case in New Haven, Conn., at the age of 13; and the eighth case in Minneapolis, Minn., at the age of 16 years and 1 month, death being attributed to "face powder containing white lead carbon black."

PART III.—STATISTICS OF CHRONIC LEAD POISONING FROM STATE INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENT BOARDS

My efforts to secure a reasonably complete statement of lead poisoning cases and deaths reported to industrial accident boards have not been successful. I am able, however, to furnish statistics for a few States, which make a useful addition to the preceding information.

MASSACHUSETTS

According to the Department of Labor and Industries of the State of Massachusetts the returns regarding chronic lead poisoning made to that department during the period 1921-1925 have been as follows:

TABLE 42.—NUMBER OF CASES OF CHRONIC LEAD POISONING AND OF DEATHS FROM IT IN MASSACHUSETTS, 1921-1925, BY YEARS

Year	Cases	Deaths
1921	29	2
1922	71	1
1923	83	1
1924	128	1
1925	97	1
Total	408	6

This indicates approximately 1 death to every 100 cases, which compares with Great Britain as follows: During 1925 there were 326 cases of lead poisoning, with 13 deaths, reported to the Chief Inspector of Factories. This would give 1 death to every 25 cases, suggestive of the possibility that in this country more mild cases are reported than in England. In 1925 the British returns gave 89 cases of lead poisoning among house painters, with 9 deaths, or approxi-