

is effective and the employe can be depended upon to wear it continuously while at work. Thereafter it is a matter of good housekeeping—knowing that the atmosphere is maintained in a state which is not a hazard to the workmen. All dusts and all poisonous fumes may not be completely eradicated, but they may be controlled and reduced to a degree which is recognized by sanitarians and by experience to be non-hazardous. This can be accomplished by frequent dust counts of the air at a point where dust is generated, or chemical examination of air samples where lead or other poisonous materials are used. Sandblasting is perhaps the most dangerous dust producing agency to which employes may be exposed, because the sand used is a pure silica which produces a veritable dust flood. Sandblasting has come into extensive use on railroads in recent years. In the shops it is used for cleaning and polishing small articles. It is also used in removing paint from cars, buildings, and steel water tanks, preparatory to repainting. Used indoors it is imperative that all employes be protected, consequently a dust-proof cabinet or room, fitted with a local exhaust system, will be required. Only the air pressure mask is safe for the employe engaged in sand-blasting cars or buildings, and this work should be done only when other employes are not required to work in the vicinity. The air hose should be long enough to bring the air from outside the dust zone, or the air should be washed by being forced through a water bath.

A respirator is a filtering device for removing particulate impurities from the air and is not effective against gaseous impurities. Special masks for this purpose are manufactured. The essentials of a respirator are a close fitting and dust-proof face piece covering mouth and nose, with a minimum of dead space to prevent accumulation of carbon monoxide, the inhalation and exhalation valves must not cause effort in breathing and must be dust-proof, the filtering device should have an exposed surface area large enough to permit free breathing, the filter discs should be easily removable for replacement, and the respirator should fit comfortably and not obstruct vision, and should permit of wearing spectacles or goggles. There are various types of respirators which may be used for non-toxic dusts or for short exposure to toxic dusts. I would recommend that only respirators and gas masks which are approved by the U. S. Bureau of Mines be furnished to employes.

Silicosis and asbestosis are strictly dust diseases, and can be contracted only by breathing silica or asbestos dust. Lead poisoning is most frequently contracted by breathing the dust or fumes of lead, rarely by ingesting lead. Prevention and control, therefore, consists of protecting the employe against exposure by the means best adapted to preventing the generation and dispersion of these harmful dusts.

THE CHAIRMAN: We have received the following wire from Mr. J. M. Symes, Vice-President, Association of American Railroads, same having been addressed to Dr. Bartle as Chairman of the Program Committee:

"Washington, D. C., June 5, 1937.

Dr. Harvey Bartle:

Your letter June second. Because of some pressing matters of unexpected development here in Washington it will be impossible for me to

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