

doesn't know the thing he should know, it is not the safety department's fault; it is his foreman's fault. We take minutes of those meetings, but we do not take the men's names. The foreman, superintendent, and general manager gets a copy. Once each year those employees come back for that same quizz, and we do not try to tell them what will happen. We show them by actual demonstration. I can't go into that now because it would take too long.

If it is possible to educate a man, without going to all that expense, in some other way I would certainly like to know how it can be done. Personally, I have the feeling that is the only possible way to let the employee realize you are absolutely in earnest. Those fellows come back once a year and spend a couple of hours, or two hours and a half with the safety department, and we get very valuable information in regard to conditions which exist in the plant of which we have had no knowledge, and a great many times of which the foreman has had no knowledge.

ADJOURNMENT

Thursday Morning Session
October 15, 1931

JOHN ROACH, Chairman

Deputy Commissioner of Labor, State of New Jersey, Trenton, N. J.

The last session of the Chemical Section convened with Vice-Chairman John Roach presiding.

CHAIRMAN ROACH: The first order of business will be a report on the trend of accidents in our industry, by Mr. Kepner.

Accident Experience in the Chemical Industry in 1930

By IRA V. KEPNER

Chairman, Chemical Section, Statistics Committee

While it is very difficult to find something new about accident statistics, it is a topic of vital importance and never-ending interest to those of us who believe complete, permanent and reliable records and statistics are a necessity in the conduct of present day successful accident prevention work—which, more and more, is leading us into fields of science, experiment and research—all of which is eminently worth while, for it is by just such development and progress that many organizations in the Chemical Industry have not only made new accident records, but reduced accidents to almost the vanishing point.

Your Statistics Committee and sectional officers were very much pleased by the excellent response of members to requests for 1930 accident records. Through your cooperation the 1930 accident experience is based upon the largest number of plants ever to report, and gives, therefore, a more reliable picture of the accident situation in the Chemical Industry than has been indicated by reporting companies in any previous year.

During 1930 your Statistics Committee received reports from the following establishments:

- 15 plants manufacturing carbon products
- 26 plants manufacturing explosives
- 11 plants manufacturing industrial gases
- 15 plants manufacturing acids
- 13 plants manufacturing chlorine and alkali products
- 9 plants manufacturing dyes
- 16 plants manufacturing paints and varnishes
- 15 plants manufacturing pharmaceutical and fine chemicals
- 16 plants manufacturing soap
- 9 plants manufacturing and distilling coal tar, and
- 66 other plants not classified.

This makes a total of 211 establishments reporting, in comparison to 172 for 1929; hours of exposure, however, were slightly less in 1930, as was the case in most of the other industries, the figures showing a decline of about 17 per cent from 1929 to 1930. The increase in the number of reporting plants, I believe, is ample evidence of the interest which many members have in their accident records, and in the efforts of our section to develop reliable statistics.

According to the man-hours worked, operations in chemical plants during 1930 did not decrease as much as in some other industries. But in spite of the recent depression, and a drop below a full schedule, the chemical industry had a good year. Our lost-time injuries averaged 15.50 per million hours worked in comparison to 18.47 for all industries. This rate gave us a rank of tenth in a list of 28 major