

MR. HIERONYMOUS: I don't think Mr. Cooper's remarks are all incompatible with what you had in mind, Mr. Chairman. I therefore would like to make a motion that this group assembled here this morning adopt the suggestion you made, and that you, as Chairman of this meeting, communicate our action to these various groups you mention. In other words, the motion would be that the associations and

various groups that operate public buildings cooperate with the National Safety Council and take some actual steps to further safety work in the buildings they represent. I make that a motion.

CHAIRMAN WHISTON: Is there a second?

(The motion was regularly seconded, put to a vote, and carried.)

ADJOURNMENT

Eye Protection

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION

October 11, 1940

The meeting for the discussion of problems of eye protection, which was sponsored by the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness in cooperation with the National Safety Council, was called to order by the Chairman, Dr. Leonard Greenburg, Executive Director, Division of Industrial Hygiene, New York State Department of Labor, New York City, who presided.

CHAIRMAN GREENBURG: The meeting this morning is intended to be a very informal one. We have a chief speaker, but in addition we have a panel discussion which is completely and totally unprepared, the idea being that many of you gentlemen in the audience have had a great deal of experience with eye protection in industry. Some of our experts who have been invited here will discuss various aspects and phases of this problem, based chiefly on questions which have come in to us from

time to time, but it must be clearly understood that anybody in the audience can participate in the discussions as he may wish.

Finally, I want to say that the problem of eye protection in industry does not consist of the gathering of data and doing nothing about it. I am very much reminded of the remark of our dear departed friend, Will Rogers, when he said that data are like garbage: after you collect them you have to find something to do with them, and that is our problem this morning, to find just what we are going to do with these interesting figures.

The first speaker of the morning is Dr. M. Davidson, who happens to be a confrere of mine in New York State and who for many years has been in charge of the eye work for the State of New York Department of Labor.

Industry's Obligation to More Adequately Protect the Worker's Eyesight

By M. DAVIDSON, M.D.

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There are two aspects to this obligation of industry to safeguard its workers' eyes. One is to make the environment safe for the worker by eliminating hazards causing accidents, and the dusts, fumes, intoxications and poor illumination, responsible for occupational diseases. Safety measures have accomplished much since the turn of the century.

The other aspect, that of making the worker safe for himself, his co-worker and industry, has as yet not received the recognition it deserves. It involves proper vocational guidance and advice for the applicant for employment with irremediable defective eyesight and for the worker who has ac-

quired it in the course of his employment. To reject him as an applicant when found with such a defect or to discharge him after employment, is obviously an inadequate social solution of the problem.

It should be emphasized that errors of refraction are not considered here as constituting true defective eyesight, as long as normal visual acuity can be secured by correcting the errors with glasses. Such errors prevail in more than one-half of the population. When uncorrected, they are of course a handicap and a source of eye strain, particularly under poor illumination.

The true defectives are those with irremediable defective eyesight, either in vis-