

Industrial Health Meet Opens Here

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If free enterprise is to be maintained in this country industry must take the responsibility for the health of its employees.

This statement from Dr. R. A. Kehoe, director of the Kettering Laboratory of Applied Physiology and research professor of physiology of the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine opened the third annual Gulf Coast Conference on Industrial Health at the Rice Hotel Thursday.

350 Delegates

Over 350 delegates from as far away as New York and California were registered by noon for the conference which will last through Saturday.

It is sponsored by the Houston Chamber of Commerce in cooperation with the Texas State Health Department and other health agencies.

Doctor Kehoe in the conference's keynote address Thursday morning said a main problem in this country today is to retain the economic stability of employees.

"This is a charge of industry as well as government," he said.

No New Problem

"While the problem of industrial health is not a new one it has increased as the country has changed primarily from one in which almost everyone was his own boss to one in which nearly all of us are employees in some sense of the word," Doctor Kehoe added.

He said this change from self-employment to the status of an employee has made industrial health a complex problem.

"Industry must face this problem," Doctor Kehoe emphasized. "It must sponsor health organizations to maintain a study of changing environment and its accompanying hazards."

He presented three urgent needs if industry is to attend to the health of its employees:

1. Training of professional personnel, which is not evident at present.

2. Develop and maintain research activities to keep abreast of industrial hazards which are by-products of new processes and materials being used.

Recognize Responsibility

3. Industry must recognize its responsibility in the matter and finance most of the training and research programs to put and keep on a sound footing the health of its workers.

John F. Austin, Jr., chairman of the Chamber of Commerce public health committee, welcomed the delegates and said plans are to continue the conference next year.

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Dr. Robert L. Sutherland, director of the Hogg Foundation for Mental Hygiene at the University of Texas, spoke on mental hygiene in industry.

A close understanding by industries of the importance of industrial health is the theme of the conference.

Also scheduled for discussion is the increasing problem of industrial wastes and stream pollution.

Many of the nation's leading authorities on the conference's specialized subjects are here for the meet.

Medical Profession

Primarily, Mr. Austin pointed out, the conference is planned for the benefit of representatives of the medical profession, industrial nurses, safety engineers, public health departments, insurance companies and utility, sanitary and chemicals engineers. However, he added, representatives of labor and management will profit also.

Dr. Carl A. Nau of the preventive medicine department, University of Texas medical branch in Galveston, will preside at two panels during the afternoon in which the following will participate: In the first panel: Dr. Kieffer Davis, medical director, Phillips Petroleum Company, Bartlesville, Okla., and Dr. Clyde M. Berry, industrial hygiene engineer in the medical department, Esso Standard Oil Company, New York City.

Moderating the second panel will be Doctor Sutherland. Speaking will be Dr. R. B. O'Connor, division medical director, loss prevention department, Liberty Mutual Insurance Companies, Boston; Joseph E. Flanagan, Jr., chief co-operative health service branch, division of industrial hygiene, United States Public Health Service, Washington, D. C.; Mrs. Mary E. Delehanty, president, American Association of Industrial Nurses, New York City; Harry Read, executive assistant to the secretary-treasurer, Congress of Industrial Organizations, Washington, D. C., and E. F. Fox, assistant plant manager, Carbide and Carbon Chemicals Corporation, Texas City.

Dean Will Speak

Brig. Gen. James S. Simmons of Boston, dean, Harvard University school of public health, will talk on "Health and Man Power in Peace or War" at the conference banquet at 7 p.m. today.

The conference will continue through Saturday, when a special industrial nurses program is scheduled.

Joining the chamber in sponsoring the meet are Harris County Medical Society, industrial health section; Harris County health unit, Texas State Health Department, Baylor University College of Medicine, American Society of Safety Engineers, Gulf Coast Chapter; American Association of Industrial Nurses, Houston branch; Texas Manufacturers Association, city health department, and the medical branch, University of Texas.

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