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ROCHESTER PUSHES TESTS IN SILICOSIS

**Medical School Mechanism,
Bicycle Ergometer, Is Used
in Study of Disease**

RESEARCH STIRS INTEREST

**Law and Industry Look for
Results in Terms of Effect
on Workmen's Compensation**

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., Dec. 4.—Tests now under way at the University of Rochester may decide whether the courts will eventually be able to determine in compensation suits precisely the extent to which a worker has been disabled by silicosis.

By means of a mechanism called the bicycle ergometer, the Medical School of the university is studying a disease to which an estimated million industrial workers are potentially exposed.

Lawyers and industrialists have turned eyes toward the research, with silicosis recently added to the list of compensable diseases under the Workmen's Compensation Act. The ergometer is part of a system developed by Dr. William S. McCann, Professor of Medicine and physician-in-chief at Strong Memorial Hospital, that shows how far silicosis has developed in a patient.

Mounted on a heavy base, the bicycle ergometer has a braking mechanism composed of a large copper disk which revolves between electro-magnets. By means of weights on a graduated lever arm attached to the disk, the rider pedaling at a constant speed can be observed working at different rates.

Expired breath passes through a valve to a recording spirometer. The increase in expiration is greatest in those afflicted by a dust disease, physicians pointed out.

Dr. McCann, authority on pneumoconiosis, believes that State compensation laws should require objective tests to determine when actual disability begins in the diseases resulting from such mineral dusts as sand, granite and asbestos. It requires many years from the time the disease can be recognized by Roentgen ray until the time when the sufferer can no longer work, the physician pointed out.

Dr. McCann is the author of a chapter on silicosis in a new textbook published under the direction of Dr. Russell L. Cecil of the Cornell University Medical School. His researches on the disease began seven years ago. A leading article on the university's methods was published in the Pennsylvania Medical Journal. Co-author with Dr. McCann was Dr. Nolan L. Kaltreider, also of the faculty.