

Box 7 / Roswell A

Annual Meeting:

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April 9-10, 1953

LEAD HYGIENE

The following is a summary of our principal activities in the field of lead hygiene:

1. Childhood lead poisoning continued to be a major problem and source of much adverse publicity. Consequently we continued our grant of \$2,200 per year to the Harvard Medical School to study this problem. A new grant of \$10,000 for a year's intensive study of the problem was made to the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, the work starting in July, 1952.

2. A new drug, Ca EDTA (calcium ethylenediaminetetraacetate) has been under investigation as an antidote for lead poisoning. Indications are sufficiently favorable and interest so broad, that we are serving as a clearing house for information and otherwise aiding in the development.

3. Our investigation of the safety of red lead paints for water tank interiors, which previously revealed sufficiently favorable data to remove an objectionable paragraph from a federal specification, has been continued to assure us of adequate data to combat any future attacks on red lead in this direction.

4. The Association is sponsoring and is represented on a committee of the American Standards Association which will endeavor to establish standards for the safe labeling of paint to be used on children's furniture and toys.

5. Our efforts to have provided throughout the country adequate laboratory facilities to make reliable lead determinations to aid in accurate diagnosis of lead poisoning are bearing fruit. Most recently this has been noticeable in Cleveland and Salt Lake City.

6. Arrangements were made to have a scientific exhibit, at no cost to us for space, at the annual meeting of the American Medical Association in New York in June, 1953. This was by invitation and will be one of a group of exhibits on childhood accidents. Ours will be devoted to educating doctors in childhood plumbism.

7. Eleven Hygiene and Safety Bulletins were issued during 1952. Of these seven were Legislative Reports, mailed only to members who had signified an interest in them. The data used in compiling the Legislative Reports have been useful in several instances in nipping ill-advised and discriminatory state legislation in the bud.

8. Nearly 500 newspaper clippings featuring lead poisoning, often in sizeable headlines, were received in 1952. Those involving the most flagrant and obvious misstatement of fact have been followed up with a view to correcting the underlying misconceptions.

9. Many meetings of organizations dealing with our own health problems were attended. They included the American Industrial Hygiene Association, American Medical Association, Congress on Industrial Health of the A.A.A., American Public Health Association, Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, Greater New York Safety Council, Industrial Hygiene Foundation, Massachusetts Medical Society and the National Safety Council. Our Health and Safety Director took part as a speaker in three of those meetings and also attended a number of smaller or specialized meetings.

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