

have attempted to assess their medical needs in various ways, but thus far none have provided more than a few of the basic elements of an effective occupational health program. Employers have demonstrated, in a number of ways, their interest in promoting the health and effectiveness of their employees by the means now available. The size of individual employee groups is generally too small to justify the establishment of a comprehensive medical program by a single employer. The nature of the employee population and the limited nature of medical services now provided are sufficient reasons to justify the establishment of a comprehensive occupational health program at the airport. An airport medical facility, primarily established for other purposes, should be most effective in providing the medical component of crash rescue plans and operations. A medical facility at a large municipal airport could be an ideal training site for civilian physicians pursuing a career in aviation medicine. Such facilities for civilians are not now available. Medical facilities should be established at airports to provide comprehensive programs of occupation medicine and for other related purposes.

-- Author's summary

- 1117 Use and Abuse of Physical Therapy in Industry. D. I. Abramson.
J. Occ. Med. 4, 550-570 (Nov. 1962).

Many of the commonly employed physical therapy modalities can be used readily by the general practitioner if he is willing to acquire a working knowledge of the field. This will enable him to prescribe the proper treatment and to supervise the regimen to be carried out by the physical therapist. It is necessary to emphasize that the responsibility for the therapeutic program and for any adverse results rests fully on the physician who initiates the treatment. Finally, it must be recognized that all physical therapy modalities are geared not merely toward the relief of pain or the increase in strength of local muscle groups, but primarily toward the goal of total rehabilitation of the patient. Residual capacities should be exploited through exercise and self-help devices, in order to make the individual less dependent on others for his daily activities.

-- Author's conclusion

- 1118 The Physical Examination in Industry: A Critique. T. G. Hanks.
Arch. Environmental Health 5, 365-374 (Oct. 1962).

The physical examination, carefully and selectively applied, has a restricted role in the majority of industrial operations. It is subordinate to selection based on skill, adaptability, and motivation, all of which are demonstrated chiefly after the fact, either by work-history elsewhere or on the job, as physical capacity should be in most situations. In occupational health and safety, it plays a distinctly subordinate role to other preventive measures, particularly to environmental control measures, safety training, and safety certification. It is easily subjected to abuse by physicians, paramedical, and lay personnel within and outside of industry. It is of comparatively little value in defense of industrial insurance claims, its value to health insurance can be questioned on the record. In the physical examination lies the danger that, as a fetish, it obscures for industrial physicians the broad scope of occupational health and safety.

-- Author's summary

- 1119 The Preplacement Physical Examination in Industry: Its Values. E. P. Luongo.
Arch. Environmental Health 5, 354-364 (Oct. 1962).

There are certain benefits which accrue to people, their physicians, and to industry through preplacement examinations as part of the total preventive medical program in industry. These have been presented briefly. Programs must include the promulgation of environmental health and safety, as well as physical examinations. Each year companies prepare annual statements which report profits and losses for the period and reflect the company's standing in matters of investment in tools, equipment, buildings, and securities. Some companies are satisfied with this review of their activities. Others, including many in the oil and aircraft industry, feel that a company's greatest asset is its people. This important asset, people, cannot be looked upon as biochemical, statistical factors of production or objects of propaganda, but as human assets that must be maintained through application of principles of a good preventive occupational health program. The personal individual "touch" of good preplacement examinations in industry is an important part of such a program.

-- Author's summary