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Industrial Health Section
December 1937

Industrial Hygiene Laboratory

Surveys of the following plants were made during the month by members of the Laboratory staff:

Northern Wire Division
Uniontown, Pennsylvania

W. & G. Taylor Co.
Cumberland, Maryland

Union Drawn Steel Co.
Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania

Republic Steel Corporation

The plant of W. D. Byron & Sons, Williamsport, Maryland, was visited and inspected for the purpose of determining the cause of the poor claim experience.

Laboratory analyses of samples collected in the following plants of the Republic Steel Corporation were made during the month:

Northern Wire Division
Uniontown, Pennsylvania

Warren Plant
Warren, Ohio

Union Drawn Steel Co.
Massillon, Ohio

Niles Plant
Niles, Ohio

New Wire Mills
South Chicago, Chicago, Illinois

W. & G. Taylor Co.
Cumberland, Maryland

During December, 33 analyses were made for zinc, sulphuric acid, silica, lead, ammonia, para-dichlorbenzene, calcium carbonate, wax, and solvents.

Reports of the surveys made in the following plants were completed and sent to the company representatives:

Warren Plant
Warren, Ohio

Union Drawn Steel Co.
Massillon, Ohio

Republic Steel Corporation

Home Office Conditions

Samples of 36 cleaning materials used by members of the Home Office Building Department were received in the Laboratory for analysis.

Industrial Health Section

During December, 46 requests for information on the various phases of the subject of industrial hygiene were received and answered.

Groups

Republic Steel Corporation
Niles Plant
Niles, Ohio

The report of the survey conducted in this plant was completed and sent to Mr. J. A. Voss, Director of Industrial Relations. The survey showed the presence of sulfuric acid fumes in the air surrounding several operations. Otherwise the air was not found to contain dangerous concentrations of dust.

Republic Steel Corporation
Warren Plant
Warren, Ohio

The report of the survey conducted in this plant was completed and sent to Mr. J. A. Voss.

Republic Steel Corporation
Union Drawn Stel Co.
Massillon, Ohio

The report of the survey made in this plant was completed and sent to Mr. J. A. Voss. The working conditions in the plant were considered to be good and no health hazards are believed to exist.

W. D. Byron & Sons
Williamsport, Maryland

This plant was visited and inspected for the purpose of determining the cause of the poor claim experience. The processes do not involve any hazard except for one where lacquer spraying is done. There are a number of elderly men employed which undoubtedly accounts for the number of claims due to heart disease.

West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company
New York, N. Y.

Mr. J. W. Towsen, Personnel Manager, wrote saying that his company is planning set up medical services throughout their various branches. Before any plans can be laid, the number of employees and the policy of the company regarding the extent of the medical services to be administered must be considered. Described the functions of a medical service, and sent a copy of our booklet "Physical Examinations in Industry" and the physical examination form which is recommended for use in small industrial plants.

Dunbar Glass Corp.
Dunbar, West Virginia

Mr. Payne, General Manager, wrote to Supervisor Jones of Clarksburg, West Virginia, asking for information on establishing a system of physical examinations among their employees. Letter was referred here for answer. Plans for introducing physical examinations in a plant, methods of conducting them, and a follow-up system were described.

St. Joseph Lead Company
New York, N. Y.

Mr. Andrew Fletcher, Vice-President and Treasurer, visited the office bringing with him X-ray films of thirty-eight of their employees at Edwards, New York, for reading and interpretation.

Johns-Manville
New York, N. Y.

During the year, 1025 X-ray films of the chests of employees of the Asbestos, Quebec, Plant were read and interpreted in this office. This report was sent to Mr. Vandiver Brown, Attorney, at the New York City office.

Pangborn Corporation
Hagerstown, Maryland

Mr. Stern visited the office with Mr. Barrett of our Policyholders Service Bureau. The services available through this Section were explained, and he was shown through the Laboratory.

International Nickel Co.
New York, N. Y.

Mr. Brady visited the office with Mr. Duncan of the Group Division. Discussed different phases of silicosis and some of the solvents used in industry. He was shown through the Laboratory.

Non-policyholders

Dr. Arthur B. Robbins
Bureau of Tuberculosis
New York City Department of Health
New York, N. Y.

Requested information on the health hazards of the fur cutting industry. He wa especially interested in the incidence of tuberculosis in this industry. Sent informati on mercury poisoning among fur cutters, and sent references to literature on the occurren of respiratory diseases.

Miss Adele E. Yoe, Health Educator
City Department of Health
Louisville, Kentucky

At her request, sent information on health education plans in industry.

Textile Products Industries
Chicago, Illinois

Mr. Glimm of our Chicago Group Office asked that information on writer's cramp be sent to Mr. Kasmark of the above company. Described the condition, the causative factors, and remedial measures.

The Quaker Oats Co.
Chicago, Illinois

Mr. E. F. Terras, Assistant Treasurer, asked that their procedure for making physical examinations be reviewed. After reviewing it, made a number of suggestions.

Crucible Sttel Co.
New York, N. Y.

Mr. C. B. Avery telephoned for information on the urine sulfate test for determining benzene exposure. Described method of analysis given in a report of the Bureau of Mines along with the results of their studies, and the references to them.

Western Electric Co.
Chicago, Illinois

Dr. F. L. Smith, Medical Director, requested information on the vaccine treatmen of colds. Sent a bibliography on vaccine prophylaxis of common colds, and referred him to industrial physicians who have been experimenting with vaccines among their employees.

Globe Indemnity Co.
New York, N. Y.

Mr. G. Watts requested information on the nature of dust created by glass grinding and polishing operations. He also asked for data on the toxicity of fused silica. Sent this information.

Standard Oil Company of New Jersey
New York, N. Y.

Mr. Roy S. Bonsib, Chief Safety Inspector, requested information on the treatment of eye burns due to electric ophthalma. Described the treatment and referred him to a good source of information.

Later in the month, sent to him, at his request, information on tricresyl phosphate. Described symptoms of poisoning, and gave the toxic doses which have been determined through animal experimentation.

Dr. May R. Mayers
Division of Industrial Hygiene
New York State Department of Labor
New York, N. Y.

Requested references on cancer of the bladder due to aniline. Sent the Statistical Division's monograph on cancer and made a bibliography.

Mr. Donald C. Scott
Springfield, Massachusetts

Came to the office for references on organic dusts, especially jute dust. Gave him our regular publications and a list of references on organic dusts.

Travelers Insurance Co.
New York, N. Y.

A representative telephoned for information on air conditioning. His company has a claim for sinus trouble said to be due to air conditioning, and he wanted references relating to this.

Mr. Clyde R. Place
New York, N. Y.

Mr. Place is an air conditioning engineer who asked Dr. McConnell to investigate the air conditioning system of the East River Savings Bank. Dr. McConnell made an investigation and sent a report to Mr. Place.

Mr. A. L. Clarke
Marchant Calculating Machine Co.
Oakland, California

Requested information regarding a solvent called Blacosolv. Blacosolv is a trade name for trichlorethylene. Referred him to an article which appeared in a recent issue of the Journal of Industrial Hygiene and Toxicology which discusses the toxicity of trichlorethylene.

Mr. Herman Dean
Canton, Mississippi

Mr. Dean is an attorney who is preparing a silicosis case and he asked if Dr. McConnell would testify for him. Explained that this is impossible and suggested other industrial physicians who are in a position to do so.

Dr. L. R. Hazzard
Portsmouth, New Hampshire

Asked for information on the toxic effects of fumes given off by fluxes during welding operations. The kind of fumes would depend upon the composition of the fluxes, which varies greatly. Listed references.

Requests for information on the following subjects were also received and answered:

Hospitalization facilities in Georgia
Sprains as they occur in industry
Health education
Physical examinations in industry
Silicosis and other dust diseases
Air conditioning in homes
Foot trouble
Arthritis
Coronary thrombosis
Value of good plumbing
Effect of household dust on health
Hernia

Metropolitan

Mr. Dunlap
Actuarial Division

A report of Mr. Fehnel's visit to the W. D. Byron & Sons plant at Williamsport, Maryland, was sent to Mr. Dunlap.

Mr. Walling
Premium Receipt Division

Brought a sample of an abrasive powder to the Laboratory for analyzing.

Miss Williamson
Welfare Division

Reviewed manuscript of "Multiple Aspects of Growth" which was prepared for publication in a forthcoming issue of the Teacher's Bulletin.

Mr. McConahay
Home Office Service

A study of the illumination in the Premium Receipts Division was made with recommendations for improvement.

Dr. Armstrong
Welfare Division

At his request, prepared a letter on "state medicine".

Mr. Vane
Statistical Division

Sent information on weight-lifting and the maximum loads for man-handling.

Mr. Perry
Group Sales Division

Sent information on the health hazards of radio manufacturing.

Interviews

Mr. Carruthers, Editor
Safety Engineering
New York, N. Y.

Called at office to discuss the purpose of the new Bureau of Hygiene of the City of New York.

Mr. J. J. Bloomfield
Passed Assistant Sanitary Engineer
U. S. Public Health Service
Washington, D.C.

Mr. Bloomfield is Chairman of the Industrial Hygiene Section of the American Public Health Association, and he called to discuss the work of the Section for the year.

Mrs. Furst
New York, N. Y.

Mrs. Furst is an assistant to Dr. Leopold Brahdy of this city. She came to the office for references on industrial fatigue in connection with the speed-up systems used.

A young chemist from Rochester, New York, came to the office for information on lead and arsenic poisoning from sprayed apples.

Publications

The booklet "Health Protection of Welders" is about ready for reprinting, and revision of some portions of the text has been started.

The Industrial Health Section is compiling a catalog of trade names of the chemicals which are being used in industry. The information gathered in this catalog is available to members of the Welfare Division whenever they wish it.

Literature

During December, 280 pieces of literature were sent out from this office, and 100 pieces were sent out through Welfare Division order.

Letters

Incoming: 211
Outgoing: 120

W. J. McConnell, M.D.
Assistant Medical Director
Director, Industrial Health Section