

M E M O R A N D U M

January 6, 1955

✓ DR. W. P. SHEPARD, SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT
DR. E. C. BONNETT, MEDICAL DIRECTOR
MR. FRED ULMER, THIRD VICE-PRESIDENT

Attached is the Annual Report of the work of the Safety and Occupational Health Bureau, Health and Welfare Division, for the year 1954. This contains sections on Occupational Health; Traffic and Occupational Safety; and Home, Child, and Community Safety.



W. J. McConnell, M. D.
Associate Medical Director
Safety and Occupational Health Bureau

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH
1954

Summary

Home Office Interviews - 12

Special Inquiries: Industrial - 2,405

General - 570

Metropolitan - 40
Representatives

Publications and Catalogues: New - 1

Revised - 5

Films Loaned to: Group-insured Firms - 21

Non-Group-insured Firms - 27

Literature Distribution - 147,692

Home Office Inspections - 4

Meetings - 18

Talks - 4

Exhibits - 1

Percentage of Time Spent in the Field - 10.4%

Home Office Interviews

Representatives of many industries visited the Bureau and requested assistance in conducting their employee health programs and other health and safety problems. Listed below are a few of these requests to give an idea of the type of assistance asked for:

Union Carbide Co.
New York, N. Y.
Mr. W. H. Winams
Vice-President, Insurance Relations

Functions and policies of an occupational health department.

Otis Elevator Company
New York, N.Y.
Mr. William Niederauer
Safety Director

Assistance in outlining a plan for giving all employees tetanus toxoid periodically and a method for keeping records of these inoculations.

The Pennsylvania Railroad
Philadelphia, Pa.
Dr. W. W. Woodward and Dr. Stengel

Review of medical program and physical examination forms.

American Metals Company
New York, N. Y.
Mr. R. P. Hermsdorf

Three representatives (one from Mexico City) called to discuss complaints of sulphur dioxide poisoning among residents in the vicinity of their Mexican plant. Safe concentrations and methods of detecting material in the air as well as methods of control were outlined.

Mutual Chemical Co.
Baltimore, Md.
Mr. George E. Best
Manager of Technical Services

Medical aspects of the use of chromates as corrosion inhibitors in air washers.

Western Union Telegraph Co.
New York, N.Y.
Dr. P. K. Rand, Jr.
Medical Director

Employee health and physical examination services and the service
of a part-time industrial physician; standing orders for nurses
in industry.

Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company of Canada, Ltd.
New Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Dr. A. N. McKillop
Director of Medical Services

Occupational health program.

McGraw Hill Publications
New York, N.Y.
Mr. Thomas E. Dewey, Jr.

Executive health.

National Tuberculosis Association
New York, N.Y.
Miss Genevieve Harkin
Associate in Health Education

Employee health education programs in industry, particularly the
pilot study in Newburgh, N. Y.

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Special Inquiries

During the year requests for advice on health matters were received from Group-insured firms, industrial firms not covered by Group insurance, and local and national health organizations. They covered a large variety of subjects. It may be of interest to note some of the names of several large Group-insured firms and non-Group insured firms which have asked for assistance.

Groups

Liberty Mutual Insurance Company
Monsanto Chemical Company
Shell Oil Company
Botany Mills, Inc.
Socony Vacuum Oil Company
Employers Mutual Liability Insurance Company of Wausau
Pitney-Bowes, Inc.
*Republic Steel Corporation
*General Motors Corporation
Aluminum Company of America
Ethyl Corporation
Carbide and Carbon Chemicals Co.
Avco Manufacturing Corporation -
Crosley Division
H. C. Bohack Company
Liebmann Breweries, Inc.
Frank G. Shattuck Company
Batten, Barton, Durstine, and
Osborn, Inc.
Coats and Clark, Inc.
Remington Rand Co.

Non-Groups

United Tool and Die Company
Atlas Powder Company
United States Rubber Company
National Gypsum Company
Time, Inc.
International Harvester Co.
McGraw Hill Publications
Forbes Magazine
Western Electric Company
Bell Telephone Laboratory
Alliance Manufacturing Company
Toledo Scale Company

The following list will give an idea of the nature and type of information requested:

Effect of the use of tobacco on health
Incidence of bladder tumors
Value of health examinations for executives
Noise in industry
Toxicity of perchlorethylene
Setting up an industrial first-aid room; training courses for first-aid attendants
Pre-employment physical examinations
Standing orders for nurses and data on industrial medicine
Inadequacy of an employment office distributing aspirin to employees in the absence of a trained nurse or doctor
Dental health programs in industry
Various effects of air-conditioning
Silicosis in the foundry industry
Effect of carbon monoxide on the heart and blood vessels

* Non-service

Fluoridation of drinking water and its effect on teeth
Efficiency through better lighting and ventilation
Low sodium diets for executives
Nutrition in industry
Radiation sickness
Hazards of zirconium manufacture
Dangers of using welding fluxes and coated welding electrodes
Toxicity of chromates
Trends in occupational accident and health frequency rates in the chemical industry and comparisons with rates in other industries
Prevention of skin irritation from tape made of glass fiber; possibility of hazard to respiratory tract from inhalation of fiber glass dust
Toxicity of plastic compounds
State controls of food handlers
Policy of employing blind typists
Methods of treating minor and severe burns
Proper shoes for employees in a super market - clerks, checkers, and butchers - both men and women.
Methods of installing paint and cleaning booths for prevention of health hazards
Drug addiction
Occupational hazards in handling hot marine spray paint
Toxicity of ozone and threshold limit value for 1954
Effects of neon signs on health
Uses and abuses of drinking water fountains in industry
Establishment of a blood bank for employees
Effect of excessive and prolonged overtime work on production
Effect of glare on the eyes
Incidence and cost of the common cold and efficiency of cold vaccine
Use of chlorine gas in treating respiratory conditions
Industrial eye protection
Methods of controlling mercury hazards
Relationship of humidity to colds

570 requests from individuals were referred to this Bureau from all parts of the Company because they inquired about medical information not covered by our health literature. Some of the questions concerned:

Use of aluminum ware for cooking	Advisability of using an electric blanket
Use of radioactive iodine	Bell's Palsy
Tachycardia	Meniere's disease
Inspidus and mellitus diabetes	Spinal curvature
The common drinking cup	Hyperacidity of the stomach
Geriatric nursing	System of sign language for a person suffering from a stroke
Emphysema	Bronchiectasis
Psoriasis	Diverticulitis
Thyroid conditions and protein-bound iodine tests	Epithelioma
Legg Perthes' disease	Beneficial climate for a victim of sinus trouble or arthritis
Effect of carbon monoxide on the heart and blood vessels	Hiccoughs
Cancer of the uterus	Osteomyelitis
Tic douloureux	Nephrosis
Jaundice	

Infectious hepatitis	Glaucoma
Pancreatitis	Colostomy, ileostomy
Vertigo	Multiple sclerosis
Effect of television on the eyes	Pernicious anemia
Harmfulness of smoking a pipe	Hemorrhoids
Effect of hysterectomy operation	Sciatica
Polycythemia vera	Fibrositis
Cause of tumors of the brain	Shingles
Methods of artificial and natural	Dropsy
speech after removal of larynx	Raynaud's syndrome and St. Vitus'
Amebiasis	Dance
Treatment of casualties caused	Albuminuria
by atomic or H-bomb explosions	Pinworms
Intervertebral disk	Spastic colon and nervous stomach
Narcotics	Pleurisy
Information on all blood diseases	Cerebral vascular accidents
Migraine headaches	Mental health
Parathyroid glands	Apoplexy
Pituitary glands	Elephantiasis and erysipelas
Otitis media	Gallbladder disorders
Arteriosclerosis and myocarditis	Leukemia
Weight lifting	Electric shock therapy
Asthma in babies	Muscular dystrophy
Erythema nodosum	Spondylitis
Bunions and their cause	Streptococcus
Varicose veins	Hyperinsulinism
Prostate gland disorders	Catarrh
Nerves	Black widow spider
Vitamins	Sprue
Epilepsy	Child bed-wetting
Rh factor and blue babies	Water softeners
White vaginal discharges	Use of physiotherapy in the home
Snoring	Night sweats
Buerger's disease	Mongolism
Parkinson's disease	Neurocirculatory asthenia
Bursitis	African sleeping sickness
Cirrhosis of the liver	Sebaceous cyst
Canker sores	Stuttering
Cockroaches	Sacro-iliac trouble
Trichinosis	Sugar content of blood
Lupus Erythematosus	Keloids
Infectious mononucleosis	Leprosy
Chiggers or mites	Menopause
Muscular dystrophy	

Metropolitan Representatives

Forty requests for assistance were also received from various members of the Home Office, Head Offices, and Field. The following are typical examples of the information given:

Modernizing toilet facilities for schools and disinfecting classrooms
Cancer of the lungs as a result of smoking cigarettes
Value of fluoridation of water supplies
Toxicity of free silica, beryllium, and tungsten
Rh factor
Industrial recreation
Comparative advantages of soda-acid wet chemical type fire extinguishers
and carbon dioxide type
Phlebitis
Accident causes in the chemical industry
Method of operation for angina pectoris
Hernia
Properties of selenium and its effect on individuals exposed
Effect of the use of tobacco as a possible cause of lung cancer and the
incidence of cancer in the glass industry
Toxicity of indelible pencils and method of treatment
Acne in adolescents
Celiac disease
New comfort air-conditioning code for use in Company's new building
Warts and moles
Rehabilitation of the physically handicapped
Building of office quarters for physicians
Effect on health of emery or carborundum dusts
Life expectancy of tuberculous individuals who have been cured
Effect of black light on health

Publications and Catalogues

During the year, a new booklet entitled "Physical Examinations for Executives" was published. This is Number 7 in the Occupational Health Series.

The following were revised:

Health Protection in Welding
Employee Health Service in Small Plants
Physical Examinations in Industry
Catalog of Occupational Health and Safety Material
Request Slip of Occupational Health and Safety Material

Literature Distribution

In all, 147,692 copies of publications including general health and safety and occupational health were sent on request.

Films

Twenty-one Group-insured and twenty-seven non-Group insured firms borrowed our films, and one non-Group insured firm borrowed one of our exhibits to show to their employees.

Special programs were frequently arranged including the distribution of booklets on health and safety.

Meetings, Addresses, and Conferences

Members of the staff attended 18 meetings and conferences. These included:

World Medical Association Conference on Occupational Health
24th Annual Greater New York Safety Convention and Exposition - At the Home Session, Dr. McConnell gave a talk, "Rx for Poisoning."
Industrial Nursing Meeting of the Greater New York Safety Council
Industrial Medical Association Meeting
Canadian Nurses' Association Meeting
Conference on Part-time Nursing Service in Industry - sponsored by Yale University
Trustees of the National Fund for Medical Education - Annual Meeting
Common Cold Foundation Meeting
Canadian Public Health Association - Atlantic Branch Meeting
Committee on Standards for Comfort Air-Conditioning of the American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers
Meeting of the Commission on Environmental Hygiene of the U. S. Armed Forces Epidemiological Board
American Public Health Association Meeting
Industrial Hygiene Foundation - Annual Meeting
Civil Defense Meeting at Bellevue Hospital
The Nursing Consultant gave a talk at the Minnesota Industrial Nursing Section Meeting of the National League for Nursing and one at the Industrial Nursing Section Meeting of the Connecticut Nursing Association in Hartford.
The Nursing Consultant met with Directors and Presidents of the Boards of Visiting Nurse Organizations in Essex County, N.J., to discuss the types of nursing services which these organizations might offer to industry.
Dr. McConnell gave a talk on Industrial Accident Prevention to a junior class of physicians at the New York Medical College, Flower and Fifth Avenue Hospital.
A member of the Bureau visited our Pacific Coast Head Office and made several visits with nursing representatives in the Pacific Coast Territory; a trip to Minneapolis, St. Cloud, Duluth, Detroit, and Chicago, where she visited representatives of V.N.A.'s, Schools of Nursing, Health Departments, and Divisions of Occupational Health; and a trip to nursing organizations and nursing representatives in Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Bulletin (a Group policyholder), and two of our Group Office representatives.

Exhibit

The Safety and Occupational Health Bureau had a booth at the Industrial Medical Association's 39th Annual Meeting at the Hotel Sherman in Chicago from April 27 - 30, 1954, which was well attended.

Home Office Inspections

An inspection of the Publication Division was conducted because of a complaint about the lack of sufficient drinking water fountains and the taste of the water.

Several inspections of the Commissary were conducted (Commissary Inspection Committee).

The Biochemical Laboratory was inspected in order to study the glare problem.

A lighting complaint in the Library was investigated, and also one in Unit 3, 5th Floor.

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Several conferences were held with members of the Home Office Buildings Division and Company Engineers to evaluate the installation and maintenance costs of incandescent lighting versus fluorescent lighting; to discuss recommended changes for Units 2 and 3; and to discuss with the illuminating engineers of the General Electric Company the cause of the short life of Bi-Post lamps.

Testimonials

Attached are photostatic copies of a selection of testimonials received during the year.

Dr. McConnell's Committees and Special Activities

American Public Health Association - Committee on Atmospheric Comfort

American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers -
Medical Advisory Committee on Code of Minimum Requirements for Comfort
Air-Conditioning

American Standards Association -
Committee on Toxic Dusts and Gases - Z37 and Z9
Committee on Industrial Sanitation in Manufacturing Establishments -
Z4 - Chairman

American Welding Society Committee on Safety Recommendations - Medical
Advisory Subcommittee

Federal Civil Defense Administration -
Division of Special Weapons - Part-time Consultant

Metropolitan Life Insurance Company -
Home Office Committee on Air Conditioning
Home Office Lighting Committee - Chairman
Commissary Inspection Committee
Home Office Emergency Committee - Decontamination Services
of the Civilian Defense Medical Services
New Buildings Committee
Consultant to Home Office Buildings Division with respect to employee
complaints on lighting, ventilation, and possible exposure to toxic
substances

National Association of Manufacturers -
Advisory Committee - Industrial Health Section

National Fund for Medical Education - Medical Advisory Committee

New York State Department of Labor -
Committee on Rules Relating to the Control of Silica Dust in
Stone Crushing Operations - Code 34
Advisory Committee - Proposed Revision of Industrial Code Rule 12,
Rules Relating to the Control of Dusts, Gases, and Fumes

U. S. Army - Industrial Hygiene and Occupational Health Section -
Consultant to the Surgeon General

New York University - Management Department, School of Commerce -
Associate Professor in Industrial Hygiene (2-hour weekly evening course)

Contributing Editor to -
Current Therapy - published by W. B. Saunders Co. (Edited by Howard F. Conn, M.D.)
Textbook of Medicine - published by W. B. Saunders Co. (Edited by W. F.
Cecil, M.D.)
Manual de Terapeutica Clinica - published in Spanish (Requested by Dr. Arturo
R. Ros of Havana, Cuba)