

Final Report upon the Physical Condition and the
Health of 100 Employees in the U.S. Gypsum Plant at Oakfield.

by the Sanborn Laboratory,
August 1933.



The following report is submitted on the study begun on June 19, 1933, of the dust hazard in the Oakfield plant of the U.S. Gypsum

A SURVEY OF THE PLANT was first made and our impressions were fully discussed in the preliminary report of June 27, 1933. Briefly these observations yielded the following points which were regarded as significant:

The mine apparently offered no particular hazard as the ventilation was excellent, the operating methods generated no great amount of dust and the rock and ore were of a nature known to produce serious pulmonary damage.

The portions of the plant devoted to crushing, calcining and grinding gypsum were quite dusty but owing to the nature of the dust this was not considered hazardous except in one particular. Certain grinding operations were done in buhr stone mills. The stones themselves being quartz contained high percentages of crystalline silica which is a well-recognized cause of pulmonary fibrosis. Particular stress was laid upon the necessity of protecting the man or men who dress the buhr stones as these persons would be subjected to dangerous quanti-

ties of highly infectious dust.

The second and third findings of the investigation are that the workers are exposed to dust, and that the dust is highly infectious. The workers are exposed to dust in the mine, and the dust is highly infectious. The workers are exposed to dust in the mine, and the dust is highly infectious.

The warehouse did not present such a favorable picture, as many of the operations of mining and bagging sand plasters involved exposures to considerable quantities of fine silica. The lack of any protection for the operators appeared to expose the workmen to grave hazard. The

cases factor, viz, and the mining done by men on the second

floor of the mine.

TEST SAMPLING - Representative samples have been taken from various portions of the plant and mine at the points where men are to be exposed. The technique employed has been the standard procedure of the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health for the collection of samples and counting particles in a Sedgewick-Rafter cell by the direct counting method. The results of the test are as follows: In all cases the number of particles was made with the other methods of each area. In addition, one at a magnification of 100 and another at 400. By the use of the higher magnification and the dark field illumination smaller particles are visualized than can be detected by the standard procedure.

There follows a tabulation of the various counts:

REPORT

Sample No.1

June 10, 1933

Location: 1st. West - 1st. South - 14 Rt. Main South - Rt. Entry.

Operation: Drilling in Gypsum

Time: First Hole Second Hole
Started 10:50 Started 11:15
Finished 11:15 Finished 11:30

Air Pressure: 47 lbs.

Notes: Electric Drill. Drilled one hole. Started second at time of sample. 2 men mucking within ten feet. Roof 4 ft. Height of impinger 3 ft. 5 to 6 ft. from face. Flow is pocketed not very rapid air circulation. Rock stopping - working place is wet.

Count: Number of particles less than 10 μ per cu. ft. of air.

Light field	1,340,000
Dark " Flankton	2,660,000
Dark " Bacteria	3,000,000

Remarks: The standard light field count is approximately 1,000,000 with a silica concentration which does not exceed 2%. Petrographic analysis of the gypsum shows approximately 75% $\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$, 10% CaSO_4 , and 15% CaCO_3 .

Sample No. 3

June 23, 1963

Location: Room 27 - 15 Rt. 3rd South - 14 Rt. Main South

Operation: Drilling in Gypsum

Time: Started: 10:57
Finished: 10:52

Air Pressure: 32 lbs.

Notes: This is drilling in gypsum using a 1 1/2" auger drill.
Drilled 2 holes. Dead ended - air in from nearby
room. No mucking. Roof 3 1/2 ft.

Counts: Number of particles (less than 10μ) per cu.ft. of air.

Light field	1,645,000
Plankton	2,850,000
-isecting	5,880,000

Remarks: The standard light field count is approximately
1,500,000 with a slight concentration which does
not vary much from the standard. The standard
count is approximately 1,500,000; 2,850,000, and
5,880,000.

The average standard light field count of Sample No. 1
and No. 3 is approximately 1,500,000

Sample No. 4

June 20, 1933

Location: 1st West - 3rd South - 14th St. Main South - 3rd Entry

Operation: Drilling in Anhydrite

Time: Started 11:19

Finished 11:29

10 minutes

Notes: Air machine - auto. feed - 1" Drill. No mucking.
dredged. Roof 3' 11". Distance from floor 3' 11".

Counts: Number of particles (less than 10 μ) per cu. ft. of air.

Light field	10,100,000
Dark " Flankton	30,000,000
Dark " Dissecting	40,000,000

Remarks: The standard light field count is approximately
10,000,000 with a silica concentration which does
not exceed 0.5% silica at the maximum.

Sample No. 5

June 20, 1953

Location: 1st West - 2nd South - 14th St. Main South - 3rd Entry

Operation: Drilling in concrete

Time: Started: 11:34

Finished: 11:44

10 minutes

Notes: Air Machine - auto. feed - 1" Drill. No Euckling.

Counts: Number of particles (less than 10 μ) per cu. ft. of air.

14th St. 1st	11,500,000
14th St. 2nd	24,500,000
14th St. 3rd	73,500,000

The standard 14th St. 1st count is approximately 11,500,000 and a slight concentration which does not exceed 0.5% silica at the maximum.

The standard 14th St. 2nd count is approximately 24,500,000 and the 14th St. 3rd count is approximately 73,500,000.

Sample No.25

June 22, 1933

Location: 10 R 3rd S - 14 Rt. Main South. Next to Air Drill

Operation: Drilling in the Roof.

Time: Started 2:22
Finished 2:23 1/2

Of 1.2 minutes

Notes: Flask held close to head of man operating air drill.
Drilling in roof.

Counts: Number of particles (less than 10μ) per cu.ft. of air.

Light field	1,930,000,000
Dark " Plankton	3,000,000,000
Dark " Dissecting	4,810,000,000

Remarks: The standard light field count is approximately 2,000,000,000 with 45% acid insoluble material. Petrographic analysis shows the material to be approximately 60% limestone and 40% clay.

The average standard light field count of Sample No.2 and Sample No.25 is approximately 1,000,000,000

Sample No. 24

June 20, 1933

Location: 3rd North - 3rd South, 14 Rt. Main South - In
Passageway.

Operation: Hauling Gypsum

Time: Started 1:37
Finished 1:52

15 minutes

Air Pressure: 33 to 44 lbs.

Notes: Windy air - 1/2 mi. W. - near lining station.
Place: 5' above ground over track and close 5' to
junction with other drift.

Counts: Number of particles (less than 10 μ) per cu. ft. of air.

Light field		1,780,000
Dark	Fluorescence	3,780,000
Dark	Dispersing	10,000,000

Remarks: The standard light field count is approximately
2,000,000 with a low silica concentration.

Sample No. 66

June 22, 1953

Location: At foot of #3 shaft. 75 ft. South

Operation: Loading

Time: Started 3:47 1/2

Finished 3:52 1/2

5 minutes

Notes: Flask 5' above ground near middle of passage way (55' wide) and 1' from in; only air being shifted past set-up. Moderate draft of air through passage.

Counts: Number of particles (less than 10 μ) per cu.ft. of air.

Light field	2,850,000
Dark " Flammation	4,000,000
Dark " Dissecting	32,400,000

Remarks: The standard light field count is approximately 3,000,000 with a 100 million concentration.

Sample No. 6

June 20, 1953

Location: Weighing Floor

Operation: Weighing and Crushing

Time: Started 1:38
Finished 1:58
20 minutes

Notes: One car per chute (2 chutes) dumped every 40 sec.
(3000 per car) - 10 ft. high
corner of chute.

Counts: Number of particles less than 10 μ per cu. ft. of air.

Light field	3,351,000
Dark " Plankton	3,390,000
Dark " Microscopic	3,431,000

Remarks: The standard light field count is approximately
2,300,000 with low silicon concentration.

REPORT OF ANALYSIS

Sample No. 7

June 26, 1953

Location: Set-up next to top at elevator at conveyor belt (conveyor belt was carrying gypsum)

Operation: Conveying and storage of crushed gypsum

Time: Started 2:31 2/3
Finished 2:45 2/3

Altitude: 40 ft.

Notes: Sample taken 2 ft. above floor. Sample taken 2 ft. above conveyor belt. Note: windows open and strong draft across floor.

Counts: Number of particles (less than 10 μ) per cu.ft. of air.

Light field	4,385,000
Dark " Silica	3,880,000
Dark " Dispersing	16,510,000

Remarks: The standard light field count is approximately 4,000,000 with low silica concentration.

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West Hammer Mill, elevator and conveyor in operating plant.

Discussion.

2:27 1/2	Started
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about 12 ft. from and level with point where conveyor empties into crusher. Wall 20 ft. high with 6 open windows; door open in each side wall. No concrete and/or masonry floor.

(705) 689-1111

[illegible][illegible]

Sample no. 23

Date 23, 1946

Location: Between Oldsmore (Rotary Mill)

Operation: Calculating

Time: Started 10:07 1/2
Finished 10:11 1/2

10:12 1/2
10:14 1/2

Alt. pressure: 40 lbs.

Notes: Flash 2 1/2" high, 6' from each kiln 20' from furnace end of kiln. Set-up in presence of 20' from 25th floor, moderate movement of air. Impinger clock moved down after 1st. run.

Count: Number of particles (less than 10 μ) per cm.³ of air.

1st Air Field	1,116,000
2nd " "	1,117,000
3rd " "	1,117,000
4th " "	1,117,000
5th " "	1,117,000
6th " "	1,117,000
7th " "	1,117,000
8th " "	1,117,000
9th " "	1,117,000
10th " "	1,117,000
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15th " "	1,117,000
16th " "	1,117,000
17th " "	1,117,000
18th " "	1,117,000
19th " "	1,117,000
20th " "	1,117,000
21st " "	1,117,000
22nd " "	1,117,000
23rd " "	1,117,000
24th " "	1,117,000
25th " "	1,117,000
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31st " "	1,117,000
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33rd " "	1,117,000
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92nd " "	1,117,000
93rd " "	1,117,000
94th " "	1,117,000
95th " "	1,117,000
96th " "	1,117,000
97th " "	1,117,000
98th " "	1,117,000
99th " "	1,117,000
100th " "	1,117,000

Remarks: No count - bacteria noted.

WATERBURY AND WILSON LABORATORY REPORT

Sample No. 30

June 23, 1933

Location: Next to Hammer Screens

Operation: Hammer Screens

Time: Started: 10:54 1/4
Finished: 11:30 1/4
15 minutes

Notes: Flash 4 1/2' back, 1' from machines - 2 operating.
Flash in air past screen conveyors, past flash
and out between screens.

Counts: Flash broken - no count.

SAMPLING AND ANALYSIS OF STAMP MILL

Sample No. 31

June 23, 1933

Location: Between Ball Mills

Operation: Ball Mill Grinding

Time: Started: 11:18
Finished: 11:27
9 minutes

Air Pressure: 40 lbs.

Notes: Flask 5' high, 10' from each mill - 20' from
end wall having the open window. Moderate
movement of air. Floor covered with fine dust;
small amount leaking from one mill.

Counts: Not counted - bacteria noted.

Sample No. 14

June 21, 1933

Location: Among Buhr Stone Grinders

Operation: Buhr Stone Grinding

Time: Started: 1:36
Finished: 1:46

11 minutes

Notes:

Flask set in center of room. Buhr stone grinder is operating and grinding. Flask about 4 1/2 above floor; about 3 ft. above and 3 ft. from opening of grinder. Moderate draft of air across room.

Counts: Number of particles (less than 10 μ) per cu. ft. of air

Light field	1,435,000
Dark " Blankton	1,080,000
Dark " Dissecting	10,720,000

The light field count is approximately 1,435,000 with slightly increased silica concentration - not to exceed 8%.

BLACK PLANT

Sample No. 27

June 23, 1933

Location: Black Plant - Over Accelerator Grinder

Operation: Grinding Accelerator.

Time: Started 8:12 P.M.
Finished 8:15 P.M.

Air Pressure: 40 lbs.

Notes: Flash 3' above and 4' over from chute where accelerator dust is being shaken on moving belt covered with gypsum. Set-up 10' from wall (windows closed); slight current of air tends to carry dust away from flash.

Counts: Number of particles (less than 10 μ) per cu. ft. of air.

Light field		17,500,000
Dark	Fluorescent	23,750,000
Dark	Dissecting	33,000,000

Remarks: The standard light field count is approximately 17,500,000 with a low limit concentration of 10 μ .

BLACK PLANT

Sample No. 28

June 28, 1958

Location: Black Plant - Hand Miner

Operation: Hand Mining Operation. (This operation is more dusty than the machine operation.)

Time: Started: 3:33 1/2
Finished: 3:43 1/2

Air Pressure: 41-63 lbs.

Notes: Plant is 12' high, 12' in bucket and chute (gypsum and water is fed into bucket 3' x 4' and then into chute; rotating disk mines gypsum). Miner in middle of room 100' wide, door in each side will open. Fair movement of air 100' W. 100' E. should open miner, say 100' of time; 1 min every 4 min.

Count: Number of particles (less than 10 µ) per cu. ft. of air.

Light field	4,370,000
Dark " (illumined)	4,400,000
Dark " (darkened)	1,700,000

Remarks: Standard light field count is approximately 5,000,000 with a low silica concentration.

WORK SHEET

Sample No. 13

July 21, 1935

Location: Above accelerator grinder in
board plant.

Operation: Building accelerator.

Time: Started: 4.04 1/2
Finished: 4.24 1/2

Air Pressure: 40 lbs.

Notes: Flash 1 1/2 ft. from grinder;
3 ft. over from grinder.
Not so well ventilated; nearest window
about 30 ft.

Counts: Number of particles (less than 10 μ) per cu. ft. of air.

Light field	12,400,000
Flash " Flamingon	10,000,000
Flash " Incubation	10,000,000

Remarks: The standard light field count is approximately
12,400,000 with a 10 μ limit concentration.

WIND TUNNEL

Sample No. 23

June 22, 1953

Location: Middle of Board Plant.

Operation: General Air (near discharge from main)

Time: Started: 11:30
Finished: 11:47

Air Pressure: 40 lbs.

Notes: Wind set at N end of main of the board machine;
3 1/2 ft. above floor, in center of room (300'
x100'). Windows open on E side, doors on W side
(100' wide).

Count: Number of particles (less than 10µ) per cu. ft. of air.

Light field	500,000
Dark " Flamingo	500,000
Dark " Directing	5,100,000

Remarks: The standard light field count is approximately
500,000, with a low ceiling concentration.

ANALYSIS

Sample No. 10.

June 22, 1955

Location: Set-up next to #6 machine. Packing
jute bags with gypsum.

Operation: Packing gypsum plaster in jute bags
on machine provided with exhaust
system.

Finished: 1:43
15 minutes

Air pressure: 40 lbs.

Notes: Machine No. 6 has exhaust system. Strong
wind blowing outside and through hall past
machine.
No banded plaster being made at present time.

Count: Number of ~~60~~ particles (less than 10 microns cu.ft. of
air)

Light field	1,750,000
Fluorescence	1,000,000
Backscattering	10,000,000

Remarks: The standard light field count is approximately
8,500,000 with a low silica concentration.

WAREHOUSE

Sample No. 3

June 20, 1933

Location: Set-up next to #7 machine packing wood-fiber plaster. Close to operator as for sample #8.

Operation: Packing wood-fiber plaster in paper bags on machine.

Time: Started: 3:33
Finished: 3:48
15 minutes

Air Pressure: 40 lbs.

Notes: Fan over doorway 15 ft. from machine was operating, blowing air from outside across operator toward machine. Contains gypsum, wood fiber, retarder and small amount of lime (25% per ten). No sanded plaster being made at present time.

Number of ~~large~~ particles (less than 10 μ) per cu. ft. of air:

Light field	15,150,000
Dark " Plankton	20,500,000
Dark " Dissecting	20,400,000

Remarks: The standard light field count is approximately 15,000,000 with a low silica concentration.

DESCRIPTION

Sample No. 8.

June 20, 1953

Location: Set-up next to #8 machine packing cement-plaster. Level with operator's shoulders and close to him.

Operation: Packing gypsum plaster in paper bags on machine provided with exhaust system.

Finished: 3:15 P.M.

15 min.

Air Pressure: 40 lbs.

Notes: Machine #8: This machine has exhaust system. Fan over doorway 18 ft. from machine was operating, blowing air from outside, across operator, toward machine. Contains gypsum, seisel and retarder. No dried plaster being made at present time.

Results: Number of ~~large~~ particles (less than 10 μ) per cu. ft. of air:

Light field	11,300,000
Dark " Fluorescent	11,300,000
Dark " Dissecting	31,800,000

Remarks: The standard light field count is approximately 11,300,000 with a low silica concentration.

WASHING

Sample No. 13.

June 21, 1933

Location: Next to #9 Miner. Cement-Plaster.

Operation: Mining gypsum plaster.

Time: Started: 2:50 1/2
Finished: 2:54 3/4
4 minutes

Weight: 40 lbs.

Notes: Flash 2 ft. wide and 1 ft. high, 15 ft. above floor, 20 ft. from side wall and open windows. On West side of building. Miner being fed gypsum, refeed, retarder. Liquid in flash formed considerably limiting duration of collection. No air protection on machine.

Counts: Number of ~~large~~ particles (less than 10 μ) per cu. ft. of air:

Light field	13,335,000
Dark " Blackten	11,110,000
Dark " Blacktening	11,110,000

Remarks: The standard light field count is approximately 13,000,000 with a low silica concentration.

WATERBURY

Sample No. 20

June 23, 1933

Location: Next to #12 Machine packing sanded plaster.

Operation: Packing Sanded plaster.

Time: Started: 9: 27 1/2
Finished: 9: 33 1/2

Air Pressure: 40 lbs.

Notes: No sander on machine. Pluck 1 ft. from operator's head; at shoulder level. Operator 10 ft. from wall and open door.

Counts: Number of ~~large~~ particles less than 10 μ per cu. ft. of air:

Light field	21,176,000
Dark " Flanigan	78,000,000
Dark " Dissecting	40,000,000

Remarks: The standard light field count (average for samples 17 and 18) is approximately 37,000,000 with a low sifter concentration.

LABORATORY

Sample No. 17

June 21, 1938

Location: Next to #7 Mixer - Wood fiber

Operation: Mixing wood fiber plaster

Time: Started: 3:33

Finished: 3:57 1/3

2 minutes

Air Pressure: 11 lbs.

Notes: Flask 1 1.5 ft. above, 2 ft. from feed opening in machine; 2 1/2 ft. above floor; 20 ft. from side wall and open windows; next to #7. Part of time flask held close to feed opening, where operator stands. No protection on machine.

Counts: Number of ~~large~~ particles (less than 10 μ) per cu. ft. of air:

Light field	32,400,000
Dark: " Plankton	71,000,000
Dark: " Disinfecting	120,000,000

Remarks: The standard light field count (average for samples 17 and 20) is approximately 30,000,000 with a low silicon concentration.

MANHATTAN

Sample No. 19

June 20, 1935

Location: Next to #11 Machine packing sanded plaster.

Operation: Packing sanded plaster. Machine not provided with exhaust system.

Time: Started 10:30
Finished 11:15
Total time 45 minutes (Plaster Packing)

Air Pressure: 40 lbs.

Notes: No exhaust on machine. Flask 1 ft. from operator's head; at shoulder level. Operator 10 ft. from wall and open floor.

Count: Number of particles (less than 10/μ)
per cu. ft. of air:

Light field		66,700,000
Dark	"	Flankton 66,600,000
Dark	"	Dissecting 70,000,000

Remarks: The standard light field count is approximately 66,700,000 with an appreciable concentration of silica.

Note: See analysis of sand under Sand Plant.
The formula for this plaster contains 600# of coarse sand and 700# of fine sand per 1027# of mix.

WARREN HUCE

Sample No. 22

June 22, 1933

Location: Next to #12 Mixer - Sanded Plaster

Operation: Mixing sanded plaster

Time: Started: 9:50 1/2
Finished: 9:53 1/2

Air Pressure: 40 lbs.

Notes: Same as #21 except flash held 5 or 6 ft.
from machine in different positions.

Counts: Number of ~~micro~~ particles (less than 10 μ)
per cu. ft. of air:

Light field	248,000,000
Dark " Plankton	232,000,000
Dark " Bismecting	3,310,000,000

Remarks: The standard light field count is approximately
100,000,000 with a very appreciable concentration
of silt.
Note: A sample taken directly opposite the sand
discharge chute showed a count of 11,000,000,000.
See analysis of sand under sand plants.
The formula for this plaster contains 600# coarse
sand and 700# of fine sand per 1000# of mix.

PLASTER

Sample No. 31

June 28, 1953

Location: Next to #12 Mixer - Sanded Plaster

Operation: Mixing Sanded Plaster.

Time: Start: 8:41
Finish: 8:43
- Airborne (Team Area)

Notes: Plank held over head opening where operator stands. Plank spinning, chute at sand chute. Hall and 3 open windows 12 feet away. Some circulation of air near machine but not very good.

Count: Number of particles (less than 10 μ) per cubic ft. of air:

Light Dial	11,200,000,000
Dark " Plank in	25,000,000,000
Dark " Dissecting	9,500,000,000

Remarks: The analyzed light dial count is approximately 11,200,000,000 with a 50% appreciable concentration of silicon.

Note: This sample was taken directly opposite the sand discharge chute and represents the highest possible exposure at this location. See analysis of sand under sand plant. The formula for this plaster contains 600# coarse sand and 700# of fine sand per 1000# of mix.

SAND PLANT

Sample No. 12

June 21, 1938

Location: Furnace Room - Sand Drier Plant

Operation: Furnace Room

Time: Started - 10:00
Finished - 10:15
15 minutes

Air Pressure: at 100.

Notes: Flash set 7' from furnace, 5' from outside door, 3 1/2' above floor. Flash door in wall 12' from furnace open; cold current of air in front of furnace.

Counting: Number of particles less than 10 μ per cu. in. of air:

Light field	2,830,000
Dark " standard	1,750,000
Dark " protection	10,000,000

Remarks: The standard light field count is approximately 3,000,000. Chemical analysis of the coarse sand is as follows:

Loss on ignition	27.21
Total SiO_2	32.13
Fe_2O_3 , FeO , TiO_2	3.64
Al_2O_3	1.33
CaO	21.11
MgO	2.10
Na_2O	37.00

Free SiO_2 (as quartz) determined chemically is 2.21%.
Further particle analysis discloses this sand to be 70% silica and 30% free quartz.

Sample No. 11

Sample No. 11

June 1, 1955

Location: Near Roller crusher sand plant.

Operation: Roller crusher room

Time: Started: 9:55 3/4
Finished: 3:00 3/4

1 min...

Air Pressure: 40 lbs.

Notes: Flash test 15 min. at 10 ft. in. air pressure, 3 1/2 ft. above floor, in path of air stream from crusher out thru door.

Note: First sample was discarded because it is liquid stirred over.
Another sample also taken. See 11A.

Count: Number of particles (also that 10 ft. per cu. ft. of air)

Light field	227,000,000
Dark " " Bladder	292,000,000
Dark " " Discoloring	2,000,000,000

Remarks: The average count (standard light field) for samples 11 and 11A is approximately 227,000,000.
Chemical analysis of the fine sand is as follows:

Loss on ignition	12.96
Si O ₂ (silica)	59.21
Al ₂ O ₃ , Fe ₂ O ₃ , CaO	7.31
Fe ₂ O ₃	2.05
CaO	11.57
MgO	4.01

Free silica (as quartz) determined chemically is 12%.

Photographic analysis discloses this sand to be 100% calcine and 50% free quartz.

SAND PLANT

Sample No. 11.

June 22, 1933

Location: Near roller crusher sand plant.

Operation: Roller crusher room.

Time: Started 10:15
Finished 10:25 $\frac{10}{100}$
10 minutes.

Air Pressure: 40 lbs.

Notes: 10 ft. from crusher, 3 ft. from door in
path of air stream from crusher out through
door.

Count: Number of particles (less than 10 μ) per
cu. ft. of air:

Light field	318,110,000
Dark " Flaming	278,110,000
Dark " Dissecting	3,280,000,000

Remarks: - The average count (standard light field) for
Sample 11 is 318,110,000.
See Sample 11 for chemical analysis.

DISCONTINUED OPERATIONS

Sample No. 13

June 21, 1933

Location: Near to man chipping Ruhr stones

Operation: Bulr stone trimming

Time: Started 1:17 3/4
Stopped 1:45 1/2
Duration 28 minutes

Air Pressure: 45 lbs.

Notes: Flush set 3 1/2 ft. above floor; 1 1/2 ft. above and 2 ft. over from chipping hammer. 1 ft. in wall 10 ft. away drives current of air past wall and the windows 10 ft. away. Air-operated chipping hammer. Man trims off Ruhr stones occasionally (every 2 min. or so) making some dust.

Source: Number of particles less than 10 μ per cu. ft. of air:

Light field	6,800,000
Dark " " " " " "	11,800,000
Dark " " " " " "	13,400,000

Remarks: The standard light field count is approximately 6,800,000 and the dust is practically pure silica.

SUMMARY OF ANALYSES OF DUST FROM GYPSUM PLANT

July 11, 1933

Percentage of Acid Insoluble Material

From Mill Mines:	15.3%
" " "	3.3%
" " "	1.1%
Gypsum Dust (Air Settling Machine)	0.0%
Boiler Stones	96.3%
Rock on Roof Rock:	
White	0.0%
"	98.1%
Grey	98.7%

DISCUSSION OF THE CHARACTER OF THE DUST AND ITS CONCENTRATION
IN VARIOUS PORTIONS OF THE PLANT. Obviously the onset of the development of silicosis or any other form of pneumoconiosis must rest upon the presence in the industrial atmosphere of a sufficient quantity of silica particles or other dusts known to produce permanent injury to the lungs in such a state of fineness that they can be inhaled. The foregoing tables report in detail the results of dust sampling in representative locations throughout the plant and in addition there are appended, in appropriate places, analyses of the various types of material encountered.

MINING. In the mining operations men are engaged in work upon three principal types of rock, of which gypsum constitutes the greatest quantity. Chemical analysis of representative samples of gypsum shows that the total acid insoluble material varies from a trace to about 20%. Petrographic analysis of this rock indicates that it contains approximately 75.0% gypsum ($\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$), 10.0% anhydrite (CaSO_4), and 15.0% calcite (CaCO_3). Fortunately there is not enough silica present in the native gypsum to constitute a hazard unless the concentrations of the total particles in the air are in excess of 250,000,000 particles per cubic foot. The actual dust concentration produced by drilling gypsum rock is less than 2,000,000 particles per cubic foot of air. Previous studies have failed to indicate that there is any hazard associated with calcium carbonate dust. Consequently it is evident that there is nothing associated with the mining of ordinary gypsum which could be considered responsible for the production of silicosis.

The second most important rock encountered underground is termed anhydrite and represents a native anhydrous calcium sulphate.

This material shows from a trace to 0.5% acid insoluble material.

Since this rock is harder than gypsum, more power is required in the drilling operation and higher dust counts result. Average counts obtained during this operation showed 11,690,000 particles per cubic foot of air. Since the silica content of this rock is negligible, the dust produced in drilling it can not be regarded as capable of producing silicosis until concentrations of nearly 1,000,000,000 particles per cubic foot of air are created.

The third and least exacting rock work performed underground involves the removal of roof rock from the haulage ways. This roof rock is called ash and shows, on chemical analysis, from 41.0% to 58.0% of acid insoluble material. Petrographic analysis of this material indicates that it is an argillaceous limestone containing about 60% calcite and 40% clay. Clay contains aluminum silicate and therefore it can not be said that drilling the roof rock presents no dust hazard since certain silicates are known to produce pulmonary fibrosis. The operation of removing this roof rock from the haulage ways is performed with a jack hammer drill and the dust concentrations produced are very large. A count made near the head of an operator during a typical operation disclosed 1,960,000,000 particles per cubic foot of air. Obviously, this work is theoretically the most hazardous from the pneumoconiosis standpoint of all the tasks performed underground, and yet it can not be regarded as a serious hazard for several reasons. The work is not very extensive, it is intermittent in character, it involves only a few workmen, and the dust produced is not free silica but contains less than 40% aluminum silicate.

Dust samples secured in the haulage ways near the mining territory and near the loading of ft indicate that the dust suspended in the general mine air is not excessive.

RAW GYPSUM PLANT. Men engaged in this portion of the plant are exposed only to the dust of raw gypsum. Samples were taken on the weighing floor, over the conveyors on the upper floor, and near the hammer mill. These samples were all taken during regular operations and the counts obtained indicate that there is not an excessive quantity of dust present throughout the entire plant. Near the hammer mill the concentration was found to be 18,500,000 particles per cubic foot. This amount of gypsum dust is probably not dangerous, but it is advisable to install equipment which will reduce the concentration to less than 10,000,000 per cubic foot.

CALCINING AND GRINDING PLANT. In general the dust created in this plant is calcined gypsum. Chemical analysis of this dust shows that the coal insoluble material does not exceed 2.0%. Petrographic analysis shows approximately 70.0% hemihydrate ($\text{CaSO}_4 \frac{1}{2} \text{H}_2\text{O}$), 5% dead burned gypsum, 15.0% calcite (CaCO_3), and 10% anhydrite (CaSO_4).

There are two sources from which a siliceous contamination may occur in this plant, namely: the refractory material lining the kiln and the buhr stones used in one portion of the grinding operation. Neither of these sources of silica can be regarded as creating a real hazard for the following reasons: both the refractory material and the buhr stones are well enclosed, the actual amount of siliceous contamination added to the gypsum is very small (less than 1.0%), and the dust concentrations around these operations is not excessive. Samples taken

between the calceines and over the buhr stone mill during normal operation at a rate than 1,100,000 and 1,200,000 particles per cubic foot of air respectively. Samples were also taken near the hammer screens and near the ball mills but due to bacterial contamination it will be necessary to obtain new samples from these locations. One individual operation, that of trimming the buhr stones, will be considered later.

BLOCK PLANT. The dust created in the block plant is largely obtained by grinding small pieces of rock into a fine powder in the air but this is not regarded as significant. A sample recovered near the head of an operator using a hand mixer showed less than 5,000,000 particles per cubic foot of air. This concentration is low and would be permissible under any conditions. The grinding of accelerator (gypsum blocks) produces concentrations of approximately 15,500,000 particles per cubic foot of air and though the dust is not considered hazardous, equipment should be provided which will reduce this concentration to less than 10,000,000 particles per cubic foot of air.

BOARD PLANT. The dust created in the board plant is identical with that produced in the block plant and consists almost entirely of gypsum. A sample taken near the center of the plant shows only about 500,000 particles per cubic foot of air. This concentration is lower than that found on most city streets. The grinding of accelerator (gypsum blocks) produces concentrations of approximately 12,500,000 particles per cubic foot of air. This operation might be improved to reduce the concentration of dust, though it is not hazardous in either composition or quantity. At the southern end of the board plant is a machine for polishing veneered boards. Samples were not obtained near

the operation of this machine, but it was not found that any silica, or quartz papers are used in this process. Aloxite paper is being used at the present time and its continued use is recommended. Research in this laboratory has shown aloxite to be relatively incapable of producing fibrosis, while the introduction of silica abrasives would create a very significant hazard.

WAREHOUSE. There are a great variety of dusts present in the air of the warehouse. The largest single constituent of these dusts is sand; the second largest, is fine sand. Chemical analysis of the fine sand shows that it contains 50.0% silica, and that 52.0% of the sand is free quartz. Petrographic analysis discloses this sand to be approximately 50.0% calcite and 50.0% free quartz. Other constituents present in the air borne dust are, coarse sand, wood fiber, jute fiber, and organic materials used in the rendering. Occasionally pure quartz sand, asbestos, and talc are used in plasters and a certain amount of dust from these materials must enter the atmosphere. The coarse sand shows 32.1% silica on chemical analysis and 26.0% of the sand exists as quartz. Petrographic analysis discloses this coarse sand to be 75.0% calcite and 25.0% free quartz.

Dust collected from the rafters over the #12 mixer at the southern end of the warehouse shows about 45.0% acid insoluble material. Similar dust from over #7 mixer shows 3.0% acid insoluble material, while the dust above #4 mixer shows only 2.0% acid insoluble material. The largest part of the sanded plasters are made at the #12 machine. Sanded plaster may contain as much as 65.0% sand and since the sand contains from 25.0% to 50.0% quartz, the dust in the air may contain from 16.0% to 33.0% quartz. Obviously, the dust created in the making of sanded plaster must be regarded as hazardous but this hazard appears to be

fairly well localized to the #12 machine.

Samples obtained during the packing of ordinary cement plaster in both paper and jute bags on machines provided with exhaust ventilation showed from 6,000,000 to 11,000,000 particles per cubic foot of air. Another sample taken near the same machines during the packing of wood fiber plaster showed 15,000,000 particles per cubic foot of air. These concentrations represent about the highest permissible counts and it would appear advisable to improve the exhaust system so that it does not allow more than 10,000,000 particles per cubic foot of air to reach the head of the operator. In general, however, the packing of gypsum or wood fiber plaster on the machines protected with exhaust ventilation can not be considered hazardous.

Samples taken on the second floor of the warehouse during the mixing of ordinary gypsum plaster or wood fiber plaster showed counts from 18,000,000 to 32,000,000 particles per cubic foot of air. Though the air created in this operation does not contain significant quantities of silica, the concentrations are two or three times greater than the usual standards permit.

Samples secured near the #12 Bates Packer (which has no exhaust system) during the packing of sanded plaster showed from 28,000,000 to 44,000,000 particles per cubic foot of air. Since as much as one third of this dust can be pure quartz, it is obvious that men packing sanded plaster breathe an atmosphere containing from 9,000,000 to 15,000,000 quartz particles per cubic foot of air. This is considered to be a definitely hazardous concentration of harmful dust. The concentration of quartz particles per cubic foot of air

might never be exceeded 3,000,000 and even this number may not be safe. For this reason it is urgently recommended that the operations involved in the manufacture of sanded plasters be given special consideration.

A sample taken near the #12 mixer during the mixing of sanded plaster showed 146,000,000 particles per cubic foot of air. This concentration is excessive and hazardous and should be reduced to within 10,000,000 particles. A sample recovered near the point where fine sand is delivered to the mixer showed more than 11,000,000,000 particles suspended in a cubic foot of air.

The mixing and packing of sanded plasters should be done in a section of the warehouse which is separately enclosed and special equipment should be installed to reduce the amount of dust suspended in the air to the minimum.

SAND PLANT. The dust created in the sand plant is all produced by the processing of the sands whose analysis have been given in the section dealing with the warehouse. The silica content varies from 32.0% to 60.0% and the amount of free quartz varies from 26.0% to 52.0%. A sample taken in front of the furnace showed approximately 3,000,000 particles per cubic foot of air. Though the dust is definitely dangerous, the concentration is not high and the hazard can not be very great in this position which the operator of the sand plant occupies a considerable portion of his time. A sample taken in the center of the roller crusher room showed the excessive concentration of 227,000,000 particles per cubic foot of air. Every effort should be made to keep the amount of dust in the air of this plant to a minimum which should not exceed 10,000,000 particles per cubic foot for in these con-

conditions this dust is dangerous.

BUHR STONE TRIMMING. Chemical analysis of the buhr stones has shown that they contain 97.0% acid insoluble material and petrographic analysis indicates that the material is practically pure normal quartz. A sample obtained near the head of the man engaged in trimming these stones with an air hammer showed 6,500,000 particles per cubic foot of air. This concentration is near the maximum permissible for pure quartz dust and is to be regarded as hazardous. It would appear advisable to move this operation to a separate room or to equip the operator with special exhaust ventilation.

It is recommended that the following men be required to wear special respirators until such time as the dust concentrations in which they are working are reduced to within the recommended limits.

1. Miners drilling roof rock or ash.
2. Men mixing, packing, or carting sanded plasters in the warehouse.
3. All employees in the sand plant.
4. Men trimming buhr stones.

By the methods employed it would appear that no one has been exposed to excessive concentrations of dust. Since it is known that severe pulmonary damage is produced by silica, and if it is assumed that gypsum or calcium sulphate is relatively harmless it becomes essential to ascertain the relative proportions of these two substances in the atmospheric dust of this plant. It was assumed that this could be accomplished by making a preliminary count of the total dust particles in the air samples, then dissolving the calcium sulphate by treatment with acid and again counting the remaining silica particles which would not be attacked by acid. For technical reasons this procedure has proven unsatisfactory and it is deemed advisable to make a special study of this problem in another visit to the plant which will be made in the immediate future. It is proposed to employ an Owens-Jet Dust Counting Apparatus which will permit the collection of dust samples on cover glasses in such form that by direct microscopic examination the relationship of various particles can be observed and their petrographic characteristics can be determined. By the use of this apparatus it will be possible to determine not only the relative proportions of gypsum and silica in the atmospheric dust but to learn whether the gypsum may not have been responsible for the formation of aggregates of silica particles too large to be inhaled. The subsequent sections dealing with the condition of the workmen will disclose there is no demonstrable silicosis among them, and some explanation is necessary in view of the high concentrations of silica to which they have been exposed.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS - were made on 111 men employed for maximum periods in various portions of the plant. With two exceptions there was no evidence of disease of the lungs and in the two cases

the condition was apparently not particularly serious. One man, Bert Smith, had been employed for 20 years in the power plant. He had a lateral curvature of the spine and a few changes in breath sounds with rales in the top of his left lung. His x-ray picture showed changes which could be interpreted as healed tuberculosis. Another man, Arthur Monette, was employed for nine years as a mason and brick-layer. While he worked in all departments he spent most of his time in the power plant furnace and repairing the calciners. "Squeaks," both expiratory and inspiratory, suggestive of asthma, were discovered on two separate examinations. His x-ray picture showed a third degree of interstitial fibrosis but none of the nodulation characteristic of fully developed silicosis. Otherwise the physical examinations of the others in the same men were quite negative.

In 76 of the 101 cases cloudiness of the sinuses in the head were noted on transillumination. In the absence of a definite history of sinus disease and without a thorough x-ray study of this condition a definite diagnosis of sinusitis could not be made. An equally high incidence of this condition has been observed in other dusty occupations.

Two cases of heart disease and one of hyperthyroidism were discovered but neither of these could in any way be caused by inhalation of dust. In addition there were numerous cases with bad teeth, tonsils and nasal conditions which were reported to the men thru Mr. Daniels with the recommendation that they be given proper medical or dental attention.

RADILOGICAL EXAMINATION showed some evidence of abnormality in the lungs of 68 of the group of 101, but in none were the changes very pronounced. No case could be diagnosed as silicotic.

The changes observed could not be correlated with the type or duration of occupational exposure. For purposes of classification the men were grouped according to the theoretical hazard of their occupation as follows:

Table I.

<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Number in Group</u>
Buhr Stone Dressers	2
Warehouse only.	6
Warehouse plus Other Departments.	9
Block Plant	10
Miscellaneous Occupations with Occasional Work in Warehouse.	13
Miscellaneous Occupations with No Warehouse Work	19
Block Plant	10
Mining Only	22
Laboratory Tester	1

Two main types of change, which might be due to dust, were observed in the roentgenograms; (1) an increase in prominence of the normal linear shadows of the lung and (2) a diffuse haziness throughout the central portions of the lung fields. In the table following, the first change is designated as "F" and the second as "P". The appended numerals indicate the intensity of these changes. Their significance will be discussed below.

Table II.

Summary of Roentgenological Findings

Occupation	No. in Group	<u>Pneumoconiosis</u>							<u>Tuberculosis</u>	
		0	F1	F2	F3	F1	F2	F3	Healed Childhood	Healed Adult
Miners	22	1	10	0	0	8	3	0	3	2
Block Plant Only	10	1	3	0	0	0	6	0	1	0
Miscellaneous with Occasional Ware- house exposure	13	2	3	0	0	3	4	1	2	1

Table II. (Continued)

Occupation	No. in Group	Pneumoconiosis							Total Reaction	
		F ₀	F ₁	F ₂	F ₃	F ₁	F ₂	F ₃	Healed Childhood	Healed Adult
Board Plant Only	19	5	2	2	0	8	2	0	4	1
Warehouse Only	6	2	1	0	0	2	1	0	1	0
Warehouse plus some work elsewhere	9	2	1	0	0	2	4	0	3	0
Miscellaneous Occupation with no Warehouse	13	1	1	0	0	3	9	0	3	0
Buhr Stone Dressing	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	1
Laboratory	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

On an inspection of these findings it appears that the "I" classification indicating a diffuse type of interstitial (?) reaction occurs most frequently in men exposed to pure gypsum dust. The presence of this type of reaction in the different occupational groups is summarized as follows:

Table III

Mining Only	45%
Board Plant Only.	33%
Miscellaneous Occupations with Occasional Work in Warehouse.	23%
Board Plant	17%
Warehouse Only.	16%
Warehouse with Miscellaneous Occupations Elsewhere.	11%
Miscellaneous occupations with no Warehouse Exposure	5%
Buhr Stone Dressing	0

The significance of this change has not been definitely ascertained for lack of autopsy material upon which to base an interpretation. Individuals do not always show a degree of reaction corresponding to the duration of their employment, but among the

group of miners 36% of those employed for 9 to 12 years show it while after mining from 13 to 25 years 55% of the men have x-ray changes of this type. In the block plant group the corresponding percentages for the same employment periods were 20 and 40% respectively, while in the "Occasional Warehouse Employment Group" none showed it under 13 years of exposure. In two miners exposed for 9 and 21 years respectively this change was complicated by some emphysema. For these reasons we are inclined to associate this change with an exposure to gypsum dust, but we have no clear understanding of the underlying pathological condition.

The other type of roentgenological change encountered which is labeled "F" consists of an accentuation of the linear shadows cast by the bronchi and blood vessels. This change could not be correlated with the type of dust to which the men in the various groups were exposed. It occurred in both the buhr stone dressers who must have been exposed to considerable quantities of fine silica but only two-thirds of the x-rays of Warehouse men displayed it. John Smith, who had worked for 10 years on the Bates Packer where he would theoretically inhale large amounts of silica had a normal chest picture. This warehouse group of only 6 men is probably too small and the duration of their exposures is too limited (all under 12 years) to permit statistical analysis. Possibly if the group were larger the figures would have proved more enlightening. It is still our belief that if silicosis should appear after further exposure it would occur in men exhibiting an "F" type of roentgenogram.

One man, Monette, a mason and bricklayer for 9 years, as already mentioned, showed a change classified as F₃. In his case the accentuation of the linear markings was accompanied by a sug-

gestion of beading along the trunks such as occurs in early silicosis. This man may have inhaled considerable quantities of silica in his work of repairing furnaces and calciners which are presumably lined with refractory silica brick. However, even he could not be called a case of fully developed silicosis.

Tuberculosis was always manifested as healed lesions in the roentgenograms. The changes were of two types, (1) the "childhood type" which represents the first contact of the body with the tubercle bacillus and (2) the "adult type" which occurs when the body is again infected with this germ. The childhood reaction consists of one or more isolated nodules of tuberculosis somewhere in the lung and another focus in a lymph node situated at the root of the lung. Such nodules of infection tend to heal with a deposition of lime salts which renders them easily visible in an x-ray film. In the gypsum workers these nodules healed with an excessive deposition of lime so that they were unusually large. The incidence of such infectious lesions was no greater than that in any group of individuals.

The other type of tuberculous change, the "adult lesion", generally occurs in the upper portion of the lung. It also normally tends to heal but occasionally it spreads and gives rise to widespread manifest clinical tuberculosis with symptoms and possibly fatal termination. Five or possibly seven in this series of gypsum workers showed evidence of a previous adult type of tuberculosis, but in every case the lesion had completely healed without exhibiting the slightest tendency to spread. If a corresponding number of men exposed to pure silica dust were in question, it is safe to assume that some of these adult types and possibly even the childhood types of tuberculosis would have shown evidence of spread and progression.

Following is a list of the individual workmen, grouped according to occupation, together with their x-ray findings.

10 Black Plant Only, 7 to 21 Years

<u>Employed</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Case No.</u>	<u>X-Ray</u>
7 yrs.	Frank Manke	46	F ₂
8 yrs.	A. Ferris	48	F ₂
11 "	C. Brown	41	F ₂
12 "	F. Waterstreet	28	F ₁
13 "	E. Newton	4	F ₁
14 "	Fred. Manke	47	F ₂
15 "	Al. Ramsey	22	F ₁
16 "	M. Olmstead	42	F ₂
19 "	Carl Lutz	19	F ₁
21 "	F. Untel	43	O C - Primary Complex

2 Fuhr Stone Dressers

9 "	-H. Whitney	32 (6 yrs. elsewhere)	F ₂ Primary Complex,
11 "part time)	C. Rinehart	40	F ₂ Fibrosis ?Tuberculo.

1 Laboratory Tester

10 "	Cummings	101	F ₁
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22 Miners

9 "	E. Cassiano	77	F ₁
9 "	C. Nelson (Brusher)	76	F ₁ and emphysema
9 "	J. Jerome (Loader Hard Coal)	61	F ₂
10 "	A. Domaogola	62	F ₂ calcified apices
11 "	S. Scopano (Pig Iron Loader 2 years)	57	F ₁

20 Miners (Continued)

<u>Employed</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Case No.</u>	<u>Notes</u>
12 years	J. Malta	76	P ₁
12 "	D. Paolucci	74	P ₁ Primary complex, I
12 "	A. Paolucci	63	F ₁
12 "	A. Frigoni	64	F ₁ Primary complex, R
12 "	N. Paolucci	67	F ₁ Large Heart
12 "	A. Ferrari	68	F ₂
12 "	D. DeAngelis	69	F ₁ Primary complex, Rt.
12 "	S. Ianni	70	F ₁
13 "	P. Varrick	71	F ₁ Large Heart
16 "	P. Taddei	80	P ₁
17 "	E. Capone	73	O
17 "	S. Hallat	100	P ₁ Calcification Apex
18 "	G. Casero	66	F ₁
19 "	J. Callanan	75	F ₁
21 "	C. Balonek	72	F ₁ Emphysema
24 "	R. Cure	24	F ₁
25 "	P. Malta	96	P ₁

19 Board Plant Only

5 "	L. Heidenrich	52	F ₁
7 "	J. Woods	54	F ₁ Primary complex, Rt. and Lt.
8 "	B. Werth (2 yrs. outside)	53	F ₁ Ditto
8 "	E. Green	25	F ₂ Ditto
8 "	Wm. Adams	56	O
10 "	Winkstern	37	O
10 "	S. Davidson	35	P ₂ Calcified both apices

19 Board Plant Only (Continued)

<u>Employed</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Card No.</u>	<u>A-123</u>	
10 years	T. Perfitt	34	O	
10 "	E. Bumstead	32	F ₁	Primary complex, Lt "
10 "	I. Davis	3	F ₁	
10 "	S. Davis	2	F ₁	
11 "	M. Allen	30	F ₂	
12 "	R. Harris	26	O	
12 "	W. Greene	36	O	
12 "	F. Fisher	31	F ₂	
14 "	V. Seaburg	24	F ₁	
15 "	W. Allen	33	P ₁	
16 "	E. Allen	29	P ₁	
22 "	S. Dick	27	F ₁	

6 Warehouse Only

5 "	R. Valena	14	F ₁	
6 "	Fred Bernard	11	O	
6 "	Wm. Shepard	10	F ₂	
10 "	John Smith (Bates Packer)	51	O	
11 "	A. Beckwith	17	P ₁	
12 "	T. Joslyn	16	F ₁	Primary Complex, Lt.

9 Warehouse and Occupations Elsewhere in Plant

5+5 "	Wm. Farmsworth	5	F ₁	Primary com- plex, Rt.+ Lt.
5+25 "	E. Dinehart	13	O	
7 1/2+1 yrs.	Natzka	9	F ₂	
8+3 yrs.	E. Earl	7	F ₂	
9 +1 "	A. Hensel	93	F ₂	

9 Warehouse and Occupations Elsewhere in Plant (Cont.)

<u>Employed</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Case No.</u>	<u>X-Ray</u>
9 1/2-21 yrs.	J. Reddins	12	F ₂ Primary C plex Rt.+
10 + 19 "	Mike Marrah	15.	P ₁
12 + 10 "	Chas. Miller	6	F ₁
15 + 7 "	Burt Smith	8	Q? Primary C plex Rt.+

13 Miscellaneous with Occasional Work in Warehouse

Chiefly Repair and Maintenance Crew

9 years	A. Monette (Mason, boilers and flues)	84.	F ₃
11 "	F. Miller (Carpenter)	87.	F ₂
12 "	D. Bowden	85.	0
12 "	E. Bogden ✓	83.	F ₁
13 "	S. Fosdick	91.	P ₁
13 "	Balfour	4.	0
15 "	M. Freiday	89.	F ₁ Primary Co plex Ft.
16 "	E. Pender	92.	F ₁
16 "	S. Christophero	49.	F ₂
17 "	Nanni	90.	P ₁ (Isolated TE
20 "	H. Holm	88.	P ₁ (both roots.
21 "	M. J. Hordan	97.	F ₂
25 "	G. Lehman	95.	F ₂ Primary Com plex, Rt.

19 Miscellaneous - No Warehouse Exposure

9 "	D. Tillet	94.	F ₂
9 "	F. Neth	98.	F ₁
10 "	A. Burr	20.	F ₁
0 "	L. Park	21.	F ₁

19 Miscellaneous - No Warehouse Exposure (Cont.)

<u>Employed</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Case No.</u>	<u>X-ray</u>
11 years	E. Newton	44	F ₂
11 "	Kent	1	F ₁
11 "	Ed. Hale	99	F ₂ Primary Complex Rt.
13 "	C. Manetta	50	F ₂
13 "	B. Ianni (Mine 7 yrs.)	81	F ₂
14 "	H. McGuire	23	0
14 "	E. Ernst (Brusher 8 yrs.)	55	F ₁
14 "	R. Lurrey (Mine 9 yrs.)	80	F ₂ Old Tuberculosis
14 "	A. Schulk	82	F ₁
15 "	D. Caton (Mine 12 yrs.)	72	F ₂
15 "	K. Stevens	86	F ₁
19 "	L. Joslyn	39	F ₂
21 "	J. Ianni (Mine 12 yrs.)	65	F ₁
26 "	J. Schultz (Mine 11 yrs.)	58	F ₂
30 "	A. Speed	13	F ₁ Primary Complex, Rt. and Lt.

From this analysis of the x-ray and clinical examinations, it would appear that gypsum dust inhaled in high concentrations over periods as long as 20 to 25 years does not produce changes in the lung which are incompatible with normal function. It cannot be maintained that this dust has no effect on the lungs for only 13 of the 101 men examined show what could be interpreted as negative lung roentgenograms, but there was no clinical evidence that gypsum inhalation had produced disability. When silica dust is also present in the industrial atmosphere with the gypsum dust this substance has not excited the reaction

which experience in other industries would lead one to anticipate. At least 17 men appear to have had a sufficient exposure to silica to have brought about changes in their lungs demonstrable by x-ray but such changes could not be discovered. Two explanations have suggested themselves: either that the gypsum by virtue of its physical properties clumps the silica particles in the air into aggregates too large to be inhaled or that gypsum chemically modifies the tissue reaction to silica. In the absence of any data on the subject it seems more likely that the former explanation may be the proper one. As suggested, further study of the phenomenon is necessary, and it would also be desirable to preserve autopsy material from men exposed as long as possible to mixtures of silica and gypsum, so that chemical analyses of their lungs might demonstrate how much silica actually penetrated their tissues. Opportunity for such a study is, of course, quite fortuitous.

The investigation has also demonstrated a complete lack of progressive tuberculosis among the gypsum workers who were examined. This finding substantiates the view that little silica has been inhaled, for any group exposed to silica for as much as 20 years should contain 10 to 15% with active tuberculous lesions. It has been claimed that gypsum dust protects against tuberculosis. H. Maendl (Zeitschrift für Tuberkulose 1921, XXIV, 184) quotes Fissak, without citing the source of his figures, to the effect that of 40,824 deaths among lime and gypsum workers only 17 or 0.41% were due to tuberculosis and that among 400 employees in one gypsum plant (presumably German or Austrian) no death from tuberculosis had occurred in 17 years. Examination of the death records in Oakfield and the nearby towns might demonstrate whether the incidence of deaths from tuberculosis or other respiratory disease was equal to or below that for other industrial

communities. Two cases of active tuberculosis in gypsum workers from Oakfield have come to our attention so that we know it can occur.

PATHOLOGY - Lack of material forbids any elaborate discussion of the tissue changes produced by the inhalation of gypsum in pure form or in combination with silica or other substances. Animal experiments are in progress but the exposure period has not been sufficiently long to hazard an opinion as to the nature of the reaction. One autopsy on a gypsum worker was obtained through the efforts of Mr. Daniels at Oakfield. This man was not employed by the U. S. Gypsum Co. but by a competitor for a period of 6 years, presumably in various capacities but his occupational history was not obtained in detail. No x-ray films had been made of his chest prior to his death so that a comparison between roentgenogram and pathological lesions was not possible. Presumably the picture would have shown an accentuation of the linear markings, as there was a rather marked accumulation of dust along the lymphatic vessels accompanying bronchi, blood vessels and the connective tissues between the lung lobules. These structures were pigmented by the dust and slightly thickened by the formation of a small amount of new connective tissue but there was no fibrosis and no nodules such as occur in silicosis. There were nodules in the lungs and lymph nodes of "childhood tuberculosis" which had healed with very extensive calcification. Death occurred from coronary arterial disease which could not be associated with dust inhalation. The character of the pulmonary changes was that of the reaction produced by many non-irritating dusts, like soft coal and marble.

This report discloses that among the 101 long term employees of the U. S. Gypsum Company who have been examined, there is no case of definite silicosis nor one of active pulmonary tuberculosis. These findings were somewhat surprising in view of the fact that in some portions of the plant, notably near the mixer over the #12 Packer, there were total dust counts as high as 11 billion particles per cubic foot of air with a free silica content which might be as high as 3 billion particles. The fact that no silicosis occurred in the group of 6 men employed exclusively in this part of the plant, and that the one man who had worked on this particular machine for 10 years showed a normal chest, throws some doubt upon the existence of a hazard under the conditions encountered in this gypsum plant.

As an explanation the hypothesis was suggested that the tendency of gypsum to form aggregates clumped the silica particles into masses too large to be inhaled in significant quantities. Nevertheless it must not be taken for granted that with further exposure of 10 or more years these men would remain free from disease. The occurrence of an "F" classification in so many of the roentgenograms suggests that with continued exposure some of these men might ultimately develop serious pulmonary damage.

As far as gypsum dust is concerned nothing has been observed which would disturb our original feeling that this dust would prove to be quite harmless. Probably it is responsible for certain changes in the x-ray pictures of the lungs but there is nothing to indicate that these changes are associated with physical disability. Traces of active pulmonary tuberculosis are wanting and

the experience quoted from Germany suggests that it is rare among gypsum workers. The evidence suggests that where a tuberculous infection is present the dust inhaled in this plant does not tend to cause it to become active for 18% of the pictures showed well healed foci of childhood tuberculous infections and 5% of them disclosed healed adult tuberculosis. However, it cannot be claimed that such infection never becomes progressive in men with gypsum exposures.

For these reasons it is of utmost importance to select for test cases individuals without active tuberculosis or obvious silicosis in order that unfavorable precedents may not be established in the gypsum industry. If it can be discovered ^{that} perchance such conditions exist among the group of cases scheduled for trial, we would urge that they be settled by compromise and that the test be based upon the typical case.

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