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SCHRENK RECEIVES CUMMINGS MEMORIAL AWARD

Dr. H. H. Schrenk, Research Director of Industrial Hygiene Foundation, received the Donald E. Cummings Memorial Award from the American Industrial Hygiene Association for outstanding contributions to the knowledge and practice of the profession of industrial hygiene. The award was made at the Association's 18th Annual Meeting at the Industrial Health Conference in St. Louis on April 24.

Dr. Schrenk has directed environmental studies in industries throughout the United States and Canada and has been in charge of the programs of toxicological and biological research carried on in the Foundation's research laboratory.

Before joining the Foundation's staff Dr. Schrenk was associated with the Bureau of Mines from 1928 to 1948 where he was Chief of the Health Branch and directed laboratory and research investigations in industrial hygiene. The following year he joined the Commissioned Corps of the United States Public Health Service as Scientist Director. He served as Chief, Environmental Investigations Branch, Division of Industrial Hygiene. He directed the Donora smog investigation conducted by the United States Public Health Service.

In his Cummings Memorial lecture on "The Growth and Progress of Industrial Hygiene," Dr. Schrenk stressed the need for research in industrial hygiene in view of the new industrial developments and the hazards which may accompany them.

"The creation of new materials carries with it the responsibility to make that the usefulness is not outweighed by risks to health," he said.

The benefits of many of the products available today, among them, synthetic fibers, high energy fuels and new plastics, would be available today without it. It is the duty of the industrial hygienist to protect the health of the worker by controlling hazards. The role of industrial hygiene in industrial progress is better illustrated by the development of nuclear energy and its application to industrial processes," Dr. Schrenk pointed out.

In order to be prepared for the industrial and social changes which are coming at an ever-increasing pace, new tools, instruments and analytical procedures must be available to the industrial hygienist. An excellent example of progress in the analytical field, Dr. Schrenk stated, is the spectacular advance in gas chromatography. It has pointed out also the rapid expansion in the fields of spectroscopy, photometry, electro-analytical chemistry, nuclear magnetic resonance, and polarographic instrumentation and the many contributions in the more conventional analytical field.

"A knowledge of these new developments is essential in the development of the more practical instruments which are in day-to-day use in the field," he said.

"The true value of analytical tools depends upon our ability to interpret the results of such measurements in terms of a quantitative relationship with harmful or objectionable effects. This in turn requires a knowledge of the biological response to offending agents," Dr. Schrenk said.

Thus, the industrial hygienist cannot work alone in protecting the health of workers and consumers. "Laboratory studies of biological response serve the dual purpose of providing data for establishing standards and of providing better diagnostic

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