retirements at 65 since each person's occupational future should be judged on its own merits. The trends in studies of mental ability have shown a sharp rise in scores to a peak around 20 years of age, followed by a gradual decline. These studies involve specific time limits and older people are at a disadvantage. Judgment, reasoning, and other complex psychological functions are more resistant to deterioration, and it has been shown that older persons are able to learn new tasks. It has been shown that the prejudices against older workers in industry are being minimized because they have fewer accidents, smaller labor turnover, and satisfactory rates of production. Furthermore, they tend to be more stable, loyal, and responsible. The experimental findings on the social behavior and emotional adjustments are more limited and less reliable. These areas are of the greatest importance, however, in successful adaptation to age. Physicians and psychologists can do much to aid older people by encouraging them to maintain a wide variety of interests, accept personal and social changes, and participate actively in community activities. -- Cond. from author's summary

ACCIDENTS AND PREVENTION

300 The Deposition of Dust on Conveyor Roads. F. Bradshaw, A. L. Godbert, and E. Leach. Research Report No. 106, Safety in Mines Research Establishment, Portobello St., Sheffield, England. 22 pp. (1954). 65 cents.

Three types of deposited dust are distinguished: (1) that deposited upon the road surfaces from the air; (2) that deposited beneath the conveyor belt; and (3) that in the coal on the conveyor belt. All three types of dust (limited to that finer than 60 mesh) have been investigated on conveyor roads in a Yorkshire colliery. The results are considered from these points of view: (1) an estimation of the dust explosion hazard; (2) routine sampling of the dust; and (3) the use of the depositions as a control method for checking the dustiness of the road. Both types of deposition vary from shift to shift. If a control system is based upon continual sampling of these dust depositions it seems desirable to sample the dust both on the road sides and beneath the belt. Control sampling for the dust beneath the belt is difficult, and on the two roads in question the time and labor involved would have been repaid only when the operation of the dust suppression devices had been brought under better control. The results of the investigation are shown in a series of graphs.
-- Cond. from Bull. Hyg.

301 When Dust Explodes. H. R. Brown. Natl. Safety News 72, 28, 29, 102-106 (Dec. 1955).

A dust-explosion hazard exists in more than 30,000 industrial plants in the United States. More than 600 lives have been lost and approximately $90,000,000 worth of property has been destroyed since 1860. Explosive dusts include (1) carbonaceous, (2) plastics, and (3) metallic. Information on the explosibility of a large number of dusts has been published by the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Mines. Chemical substances that may form explosive dust and air mixtures, and chemical reactions that occur in dust explosions are discussed. Chemical means of preventing explosions or reducing the hazard include limiting the oxygen available for combustion and addition of an inert dust. A number of methods are described. Another subject that has not received so much attention is venting to reduce the damage to permanent structures. The types of open vents include louvers, hangar-type doors, and open roof vents. Closed or sealed vents are necessary under some conditions, and various types are available.

302 Hazards from Working in Tanks and Pits. S. Moskowitz and W. J. Burke. Monthly Rev., N. Y. State Dept. Labor 34, 41-43 (Nov.); 47, 48 (Dec. 1955).

A number of deaths and exposures which have nearly caused death are reported in cases where workmen entered pits or tanks, even when they were entirely open at the top. It cannot be assumed that air contaminants diffuse from such enclosures without mechanical

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