



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

HARRISBURG

THE SECRETARY

October 7, 1924

Dr. Cecil K. Drinker,
Department of Physiology,
Harvard University,
55 Van Dyke Street,
Boston, Massachusetts.

My dear Dr. Drinker:

I am planning to undertake a survey of the larger lead using plants in Pennsylvania for the purpose of discovering the extent of lead poisoning occurring in these plants and also for the purpose of determining how the individual plants meet this problem.

The preliminary work will be done by questionnaire. I enclose a copy of the proposed questionnaire and the covering letter. I shall be very glad to have from you any suggestions as to the questionnaire or the letter. I shall value greatly your advice, criticisms and suggestions regarding the worth-whileness, the scope, the method or anything else relating to this study.

Sincerely yours,

ROYAL MEEKER

Secretary of Labor and Industry

HARVARD MEDICAL LIBRARY
IN THE
FRANCIS A. COUNTWAY
LIBRARY OF MEDICINE

C O P Y

Dear Sir:

Lead is by far the most prevalent of all industrial poisons. Its prevalence and the serious consequences which frequently result from lead poisoning have so impressed public men the world over that measures have been and are now being seriously considered by the International Labour Organization intended to prohibit or limit the use of soluble lead compounds in certain occupations in which the hazard of poisoning is great.

The uses of lead and lead compounds are so many and varied that we should know much more about the hazards of lead poisoning in different industries and occupations before venturing to formulate further legislation and regulations for the better protection of lead workers. In order to secure more accurate and complete information, I am sending out the enclosed questionnaire to establishments manufacturing or using lead in any form, with the request that they cooperate with the Department of Labor and Industry by supplying as complete information as possible in reply to these questions.

I shall value greatly any suggestions you may make as to the best methods of securing the necessary information for our guidance in formulating policies for the protection of lead workers and their employers against the dangers connected with the making and handling of lead and its compounds.

Sincerely yours,

ROYAL MEEKER
Secretary of Labor and Industry.

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QUESTIONNAIRE ON LEAD POISONING

Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

(When returning this questionnaire please enclose copies of forms used for recording physical examinations, instructions relative to lead poisoning and any other forms bearing on the subject that would be helpful in this study.)

1. Name of firm _____
2. Address of firm _____
3. Nature of products _____
4. Total number of employees except those employed in office _____ Male _____ Female _____
5. Total number of employees using or coming in contact with lead compounds _____ Male _____ Female _____
6. What compounds of lead are used in your plant? _____
7. Are your workers instructed in the dangers of lead? _____
8. How extensive is such instruction? _____
9. By whom and how given? _____
10. Do you require physical examination of applicants for employment? _____
11. Do you require periodic physical examination of workers in lead? _____
If so, how often? _____
12. Do you transfer loaded workers to work in which they are not exposed to lead compounds? _____
13. Do you have a plant dispensary? _____
14. Do you employ a nurse? _____ Registered or practical? _____
15. Do you employ a physician? _____ Full time? _____ Part time? _____
On call? _____ Name and address of physician _____
16. What treatment do you provide for your workers who show signs of lead poisoning? _____
17. Do you provide for your workers exposed to the dangers from lead (a) Bath and change house or room? _____ (b) Lockers? _____ (c) Hot water for washing purposes? _____ (d) Soap? _____ (e) Towels? _____ (f) Clothing exclusively for work? _____ (g) Free laundering of work clothing? _____ (h) _____
18. Is food sold in your lunch room? _____ Are workers forbidden to eat food in the workrooms? _____
19. Do you provide in your dangerous processes (a) Exhaust systems? _____ (b) Respirators? _____ (c) What other means for protecting your workers from lead poisoning? _____
20. How many cases of lead poisoning have you had among your workers since January 1, 1923? _____ How many of these cases resulted in death? _____
21. Remarks _____
22. Information submitted by _____ Position _____
23. Date _____

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