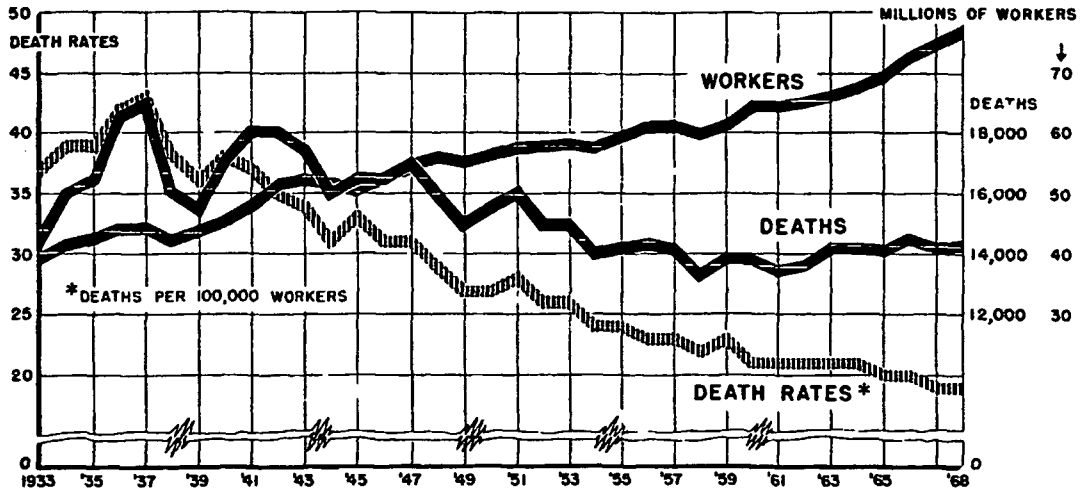
TREND OF ACCIDENTAL WORK DEATHS HAS BEEN DOWN



In discussing safety in industrial operations, I have often heard it stated that the cost of adequate health and safety measures would be prohibitive and that 'we can't afford it'

"My answer to that is quite simple and quite direct It is this *'If we can't afford safety, we can't afford to be in business'"*

A by-product of organized safety activity has been increased interest in safety engineering on the part of schools of higher learning A number of schools now offer advanced courses in this subject, and are contributing to a higher standard of knowledge among professionals in the field (See Chapter 14)

The World War II labor shortage dramatically brought home to management the magnitude and seriousness of the problem of off-the-job accidents to industrial employees

Interest in off-the-job safety has been heightened in recent years by the passage of numerous state laws on compulsory insurance which, in effect, make the employer financially responsible for all illnesses and injuries to workers, whether they originate on or off the job Today, an increasing number of employers are including off-the-job safety in their overall safety program

From the earliest days of industrial safety work, it has never been possible to make a clear separation between health and accident hazards Is dermatitis an accident or a disease? What about hernias and heart trouble? Inevitably, there has been interest and activity on the part of safety professionals in many health problems that are on the borderline between diseases and accidents Over the years, an increasingly effective organized cooperation between medical and safety professionals has developed in these areas

Accomplishments

In any movement of social progress, there are many factors which must be considered in evaluating the usefulness of the effort

In evaluating the work of the safety movement, particularly, a complex set of factors must always be kept in mind

First of all, it must be remembered that the objectives in designing a safety movement on