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ROLE OF THE OFFICIAL AGENCY IN INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE

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The chief function of the official industrial hygiene agency is to maintain safe and healthful working conditions in industry. In certain states, the ends to be achieved are set forth in the Public Health or Labor Law. For example, in the Labor Law of the State of New York, the Industrial Commissioner is charged with the duty of protecting the workers as follows:

"Section 200. General Duty to Protect Health and Safety of Employees — All places to which this chapter applies shall be so constructed, equipped, arranged, operated and conducted as to provide reasonable and adequate protection to the lives, health and safety of persons employed therein. The board shall make rules to carry into effect the provisions of this section."

In certain jurisdictions the charge is not so specific but is rather a part of the general police power of the state and of the Health or the Labor Commissioner. In practice there has been little question of the possession of authority in a given area — for with few exceptions, the power to enforce is well accepted.

While the objectives of industrial hygiene are well crystallized and accepted in most areas, it is important to note that the means of attaining these ends are often left to the decision of the industrial hygiene administrator. For example, in a certain health department, the Division of Industrial Hygiene locates a definite health hazard after study and test. The problem is to achieve correction and control. It is at this point that the enforcing authority has leeway in method. In general, in labor departments, the enforcement of safety rules and regulations is achieved in a somewhat routine fashion, i.e., the inspector is required to issue the orders immediately on perceiving the so-called violation. With respect to health violations, the industrial hygiene divisions may, after finding a violation, move to obtain correction by agreement. Not being successful after a reasonable period, the Division of Industrial Hygiene may forward the papers to the Division of Inspection for necessary enforcement. The important fact is that the industrial hygiene division has considerable latitude in arranging for compliance with its requirements for the control of a health hazard.

THE EDUCATION OF INDUSTRY

During the last 10 years, health has become a popular subject, and along with the increase of knowledge and interest in personal and public health matters, there has gone a corresponding increase in knowledge and interest in the field of industrial health. The work of the universities, the insurance companies, the Industrial Hygiene Foundation, the National Association of Manufacturers, the Public Health Service and other agencies has served to inform the industrialists of this country about health, and particularly, health in industry. This has made the task of what must be done today a relatively simple one.

The key to educating industry to appreciate industrial hygiene lies in demonstrating the healthful plant working conditions are the basis of: (1) good management; (2) good working conditions generally; (3) good union and worker relationships; (4) decreased labor turnover and lost time, and (5) decreased production losses and, therefore, costs of production.

In other words, there are so many axiomatic and obvious reasons why healthful working conditions are good for management, that it is only rarely that this direct approach fails. Printed matter has also been of great aid. Lastly, factory inspectors should be utilized in the education of industry with regard to accident prevention, industrial health and hygiene, and public health.

PERSONNEL WITH WHOM TO DEAL

At this point, it is well to introduce a fundamental consideration, namely, the influence of company size on the whole problem of industrial hygiene and industrial health.

The size of the company and plant determines its administrative organization and the choice of persons with whom the industrial hygienist may deal. In the small plant, one man may make all important decisions—he may purchase as well as sell and, at the same time, be factory superintendent. Such an organization leaves little to the choice of the industrial hygienist. He must see the boss of the establishment. At the other extreme, one may find a large organization where function and jurisdiction are limited and well defined. Here, there may be an industrial hygiene department, a medical department, a department of maintenance, a complete engineering department, a personnel office, a factory manager, a plant superintendent, and one or more safety engineers. Between the small plant and the large one, there are many gradations in size and in kinds of personnel. Thus the choice of the person to whom to report is often made for the industrial hygienist by the company organization. The plant manager or the plant superintendent must be acquainted with the efforts of the

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treated was to be used as seed; another part was ground for feed.

In this plant, approximately 20-25 tons of seed were treated during the months of March, April and May. As the seed grains drop from an overhead hopper, through an enclosed chute, prescribed amounts of the mercury compound were sifted on it. The dusted grain was then moved, by means of an enclosed conveyor, either to spouts for filling burlap bags, or to a grinding mill. In the filling of the burlap bags, an exhaust system carried off the dust from the grain and excess mercury compound, and deposited it under the floor of the building. Bagging of the ground material was done from a port in the mixer.

Air tests for mercury, made at strategic plant operations and at the breathing zone of the workers, were all above permissible concentrations. The plant was advised as to ways and means of controlling the mercury hazard and is cooperating in carrying out these measures.

OCCUPATIONAL CANCER

A Challenge to the Physician

(*Continued from the October, 1951 issue*)

Terms and Pathological Diagnosis Included* Under "Cancer and Other Malignant Tumors" and Reportable in Accordance with §25-b, Public Health Law

Carcinoma, Sarcoma, Epithelioma, Endothelioma — And any term of which one of these words is a part.

Acanthoma
Astrocytoma
Brain Tumors
Chorioma
Chloroma
Cholesteatoma
Embryoma
Ependymoma
Ganglioneuroma
Glioma
Granulosa Cell Tumor (Ovary)
†Giant Cell Tumor (Bone)
Hypernephroma
Hodgkin's Disease
Leukemia
Lymphoma
Lymphosarcoma
Linitis Plastica (Stomach)
Melanoma
Meningioma
Myeloma
Medulloblastoma
Mesothelioma
Mixed Tumor
Neurocytoma
Oligodendroglioma
Pinealoma
Syncytioma
Seminoma
Sympathoblastoma
Spongioblastoma
Teratoma
Thymoma
Paget's Disease (Breast)
Wilms' Tumor (Kidney)
Ewing's Tumor (Bone)
Grawitz' Tumor (Kidney)

* This list is not exhaustive but comprises the great majority of terms usually used WHEN THERE IS DOUBT CONCERNING THE MALIGNANT NATURE OF A TUMOR, IT SHOULD BE REPORTED.

† Giant Cell Tumors of Bone Are Usually Benign, But May Become Malignant. Included for Special Study.

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