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FOUNDATION FACTS

Foundation Facts is a monthly news-letter issued to industrial concerns holding membership in Industrial Hygiene Foundation. The Foundation is a non-profit association of industries for the advancement of healthful working conditions.

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No. 8

M.E. Coyle of General Motors to Keynote Annual Meeting

Conferences to Include one on Air and Stream Pollution

M.E. Coyle, Executive Vice-President of General Motors Corp., will deliver keynote address opening the 14th annual meeting of Industrial Hygiene Foundation on Institute, Pittsburgh, on November 17. Mr. Coyle will speak on subjects of interest to industrial management, as corporate activities and their impact on the National economy.

Besides the main meeting for management representatives, four professional sessions will be held here on November 16---(1) Medical, (2) Chemical & Toxicology, (3) Engineering and (4) Legal. These round-table sessions are being planned by the respective professional committees in the Foundation and the agenda is announced soon.

November 18, the day after the main meeting, will be devoted to a conference on the Air and Water of Industrial Communities, with emphasis on air pollution. The membership voted 3 to 1 in favor of such a conference which in effect will be a continuation of the main meeting. The agenda will cover subjects of interest to management and technical representatives.

The Medical Conference on November 16, the main meeting on November 17 and the "air and water" conference on November 18 will all be held in the main auditorium at Mellon Institute. The other conferences (November 16) will all be held either at the Institute or nearby at sites to be announced.

Hotel reservations should be made now. Both the Hotels Webster Hall and Tray, near Mellon Institute, promise full cooperation, as do the downtown hotels and the Pittsburgh Convention Bureau.

More details later.....

I-H-F in American Can Company's Annual Report

The 47th annual report of the American Can Company, a Foundation member, contains the following:

"With the assistance of Industrial Hygiene Foundation of America, which is located in the Mellon Institute in Pittsburgh, a survey was conducted of the Company's medical program for employees. The purpose of this survey was to determine ways where the Company's already comprehensive medical program can be made more effective."

(Editor's Note: The Foundation is now engaged in four other such studies dealing with medical administration, cost and procedure.)

--- November 16, 17, 18---

However, great care should be taken to exclude the tuberculous in selecting persons to receive aluminum therapy. (4) It is not believed that a scientifically controlled experiment in industry is feasible for the evaluation of aluminum for the prophylaxis of silicosis. This follows from the uncontrollable variables inherent in the industrial situation and other factors which have been discussed. For these reasons, it appears improbable that any research agency would consider it advisable to undertake such a project except under special conditions already discussed, and which may not be attainable. (5) The McIntyre Research Foundation, as presently organized, is not equipped to solve the aluminum prophylaxis problem in relation to silicosis. The steps considered necessary to accomplish this objective are outlined. (6) Research should be continued with laboratory animals with the object of finding a more adequate basis for application to man. Such study is now included in the program of the Saranac Laboratory of the Trudeau Foundation. -- Authors' Summary

- 56 Effects of Electricity on the Human Body. W.B. Kouwenhoven.
Ind. Med. 18, 269 (July, 1949).

The author discusses briefly the various effects of electricity on the body, including variations with the amount of current. The current values of interest are: (1) threshold of feeling, about 1 milliamperere; (2) let-go current, above which it is difficult to let go of a wire, about 9 milliamperes for men, 6 for women; (3) current producing ventricular fibrillation, 0.1 ampere; (4) current producing a block in the nervous system, one ampere or more; and (5) the counter shock current. The last three result in death if prolonged; otherwise artificial respiration may save the victim. These effects refer to alternating current of commercial frequency. Direct current is much less harmful. The only effect of high-frequency currents is heating.

- 57 Asbestosis and Cancer of the Lung. Editorial.
J.A.M.A. 140, 1219-1220 (Aug. 13, 1949).

Records of English, American and German physicians and The Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories in England for 1947 show that the occurrence of cancer of the lung is related to pulmonary asbestosis. This relation is supported by the following observations: (1) The incidence rate of cancer of the lungs in asbestosis patients is 10 to 15 times as high as among the general population. (2) The male-female ratio is more nearly equal than it is for the general population, which indicates that an environmental and evidently occupational carcinogen tended to equalize the incidence rate of cancer of the lungs for both sexes. Recent experimental observations support this interpretation of clinical evidence.

- 58 Changes in the Lungs Produced by Natural Graphite. H.E. Harding and G.B. Oliver. Brit. J. Ind. Med. 6, 91-99 (April, 1949).

A brief description is given of the industrial uses of natural graphite, which is a crystalline carbon mixed with up to 10% of free silica and with other minerals. The greatest dust risk occurs in the grinding of natural graphite, for which evidence is presented to show that this can lead to