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Everett Foundry

November 22, 1923.

This is in many ways an excellent plant and I should have only two criticisms to make of it.

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The health problem seems to be a problem of dust. In sandblasting and in dry molding there is a great deal of sand dust, some of which is extremely fine. The nine men employed in sandblasting work in small cells. wear a sponge respirator inside a diver's helmet. This helmet has a 100 mesh wire in the opening. Of course the finest sand, that which is small enough to reach the lungs, passes through such a wire and it is always possible to wipe very fine sand from the inside of these helmets. Whether or not the sponge respirator holds back the dust I do not know. The method outlined to me by Dr. Schubmehl is certainly, if carefully applied, the best way of protecting these men. He tells me that they go to the dispensary in Lynn for examination every three months and that any of them who develop bronchial trouble are suspended from sandblasting till they have recovered. It would be advisable to bring under this same system the men who are cleaning out the dry sand from the machine parts with an air hammer. The work dislodges quantities of fine sand dust increased by the men's habit of using the stream of air to blow the loosened sand away. The air in this part of the building is foggy with dust.

The other point to which attention should be directed is the first-aid room. This is in charge of a non-medical first-aid man, and it is plain that the work done there is not of a professional character. The equipment of the room is poor and incomplete and it is very doubtful whether proper care can be given to eye cases and minor accidents under present conditions.

