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LEAD INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION

60 EAST 42ND STREET

NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

December 18, 1959

SUBJECT: LEAD X-RAY SHIELDS

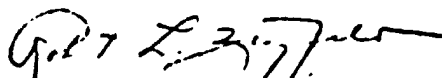
To Members of the Lead Industries Association:

We believe that you will be interested in the attached copy of an article which appeared in the NEW YORK TIMES on Friday, December 11. In this connection we would like to point out that we are cooperating with the New York City Department of Health and Professor Hanson Blatz, its consultant on radiation, by having built for them a demonstration panel to be used by the Department in impressing doctors and dentists with the need for lead X-ray shielding.

This panel will be of ordinary wallboard, half of which will be covered with sheet lead. It will be on wheels so that it can be moved back and forth between a radiation source and a counter to demonstrate lead's ability to stop the rays.

When the New York campaign for better shielding has been in progress long enough to evaluate its results, we hope that we may interest other cities in campaigning similarly for better protection. We believe that such efforts should stimulate the market for sheet lead and other lead products.

Very truly yours,



Secretary

Att.



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NEW YORK TIMES
December 11, 1959**DENTISTS ALERTED
ON X-RAY SHIELDS****City May Order Lead Walls
Installed as Protection
Against Radiation**

By DAVID ANDERSON

Dentists with offices in the heart of New York may be ordered to install lead walls shielding as a protection against radiation from X-ray machines.

Inspection of the city's 6,819 dental offices has already started and will take the better part of two years, according to Prof. Hannon Blatz, consultant on radiation to the Department of Health.

A program set in motion by last year's new health code has led to the examination of 2,500 X-ray machines in doctors' offices and all dental equipment in hospitals. Dr. Blatz said yesterday that 2,000 physicians and dentists had not yet registered nor paid the \$15 fee required by law.

Scattered radiation is the problem posed by the dentists. Little or no risk is run by the patient, Dr. Blatz explained, although "we feel some concern for long-range genetic effects of radiation accumulated by youngsters." But the dentists themselves and persons working with them must be considered in another category, he said.

"Some Braver Notes"

A dental X-ray aimed at a specific spot or a series of them releases gamma rays at a rate estimated at 3.5 roentgens a second.

This rate of radiation is far in excess of what a man is permitted to absorb in a week. Dr. John F. Manhold Jr., a pathologist at Seton Hall University's College of Medicine and Dentistry, told a clinic at the Greater New York Dental Meeting in the Statler Hilton Hotel yesterday. Rays scatter, however, and strike the dentist unless he takes cover.

Dr. Blatz said the city was going to have to check this situation. Lead shielding in the walls of offices is one solution, he added.

Radiation is "a calculated risk" in dentistry, in the opinion of Dr. Manhold. He urged the dentists to look at the problem "logically and sensibly" because "some of the scares around is justified."