

May 18th, 1932.

REPORT of the Activities of the Industrial
Hygiene Department.
McGill University.

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During the past year the following activities have been carried on by the Industrial Hygiene Department under the auspices of McGill and the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company.

1. Clinical Activities: The policy was continued of examining all cases from certain specified trades who presented themselves at the clinic, and by this means we continued to make important connections with hazardous industries. The number of cases of lead poisoning treated fell very sharply, partly owing to decreased production, but still more so, we believe, to the improvements undertaken by the plants under our supervision and advice.

Throughout the year the Health Service for General Hospital employees and administration of the benefit system among them was continued.

The night Industrial Dental Clinic, formed as a co-operative measure by the industries in whom we are interested to furnish dental care at reasonable prices to the employees, operated for ten months of the year as usual. We have lately published an account of its organization and its financial report for the past three years.

2. Field Work: While we were unsuccessful in establishing health services in any new industries during the period under review, a supervision of those already established was continued. The Toilet Laundry Company, employing five hundred people, have opened up a local hospital with a nurse in charge, and have added a physician to their staff. All this was done under our advice and help.

3. Research and Publications: The survey of Asbestos workers in the district about Thetford Mines, undertaken by Dr. Pedley, was completed in this period.

Two very important problems of research were initiated during the period, and are being continued:

- (a) The Quebec Industrial Health Survey. Assisted by the Provincial Department of Health and the Canadian Tuberculosis Association, we have undertaken to examine fully and to make X-rays of the chests of 5,000 industrial workers selected at random from various in-

0412

dustries of the city and province. At the date of writing 1700 have already been completed, and arrangements are concluded for the examination of the remainder.

- (b) A second investigation is that being undertaken by Mr. Fraser, in the Department of Pharmacology, on the toxic effects of mercury. The initial part of this work is concerned with animal experimentation and the examination of employees of the Shawinigan Chemical Company, in whose workshops mercury is extensively used as a catalyst.

Both of these investigations will, we believe, throw important light on industrial medicine, and will be a distinct contribution to the subject, as is amply proved by results to date.

Some of the publications issued by the Department during the year are enclosed herewith.

4. Teaching: Lectures, laboratory demonstrations and field instruction have been given to various groups of students, nurses, social workers and candidates for the Faculty of Architecture.

The Director of the Department has continued to act as Secretary of the Industrial Medical Association of the Province of Quebec, which has now been admitted as a section of the Provincial Medical Association, and has maintained contacts between the physicians doing industrial work and the Commission of the Workmen's Compensation Board.

5. General: The most important development in the Province during this period has been the coming into force of the new Workmen's Compensation Act of 1931, granting compensation for industrial disease. We continue to work for a provincial department of Industrial Hygiene to carry on officially the work that we have been trying to do in an unofficial way.

There is every likelihood that in the near future an Institute of Hygiene will be established for the Province, and arrangements are being made in the outline of the project for a participation on equal terms of French and English Industrial Health Departments.

Owing to the general depression, and consequent restriction of funds, a slight reorganization of the department was carried out. While the clinical work is continued at the hospitals, the laboratories and personnel of the expert

A 0413

staff were moved to McGill University, and the work continued as outlined to you in our letter of August 22nd, 1931.

Two of the activities then recorded will be dropped this year, namely, the Health Service for General Hospital employees and the systematic sampling of all new admissions to the out-door department. This is in part compensated for, however, by weekly attendance at staff rounds and through co-operation of other workers in the out-patient department, by means of which there continues to be a supply of material from industrial diseases for observation and attention. In a similar way the staff of the Royal Victoria Hospital is co-operating to increase the contacts between the Department and industrial disease.

Social Science Service: A great deal of activity is going on at McGill at the present time in social science research, in which connection the Industrial Hygiene Department is taking an active participation.

Unemployment is being studied intensively by the Departments of Sociology, Political Economy and the Faculty of Medicine, and a co-operative group is in this way studying unemployment from its various aspects.

Physical examination is to be undertaken as a routine procedure in groups of the unemployed under the direction of the Industrial Hygiene Department, and some interesting results therefrom are anticipated.

0414