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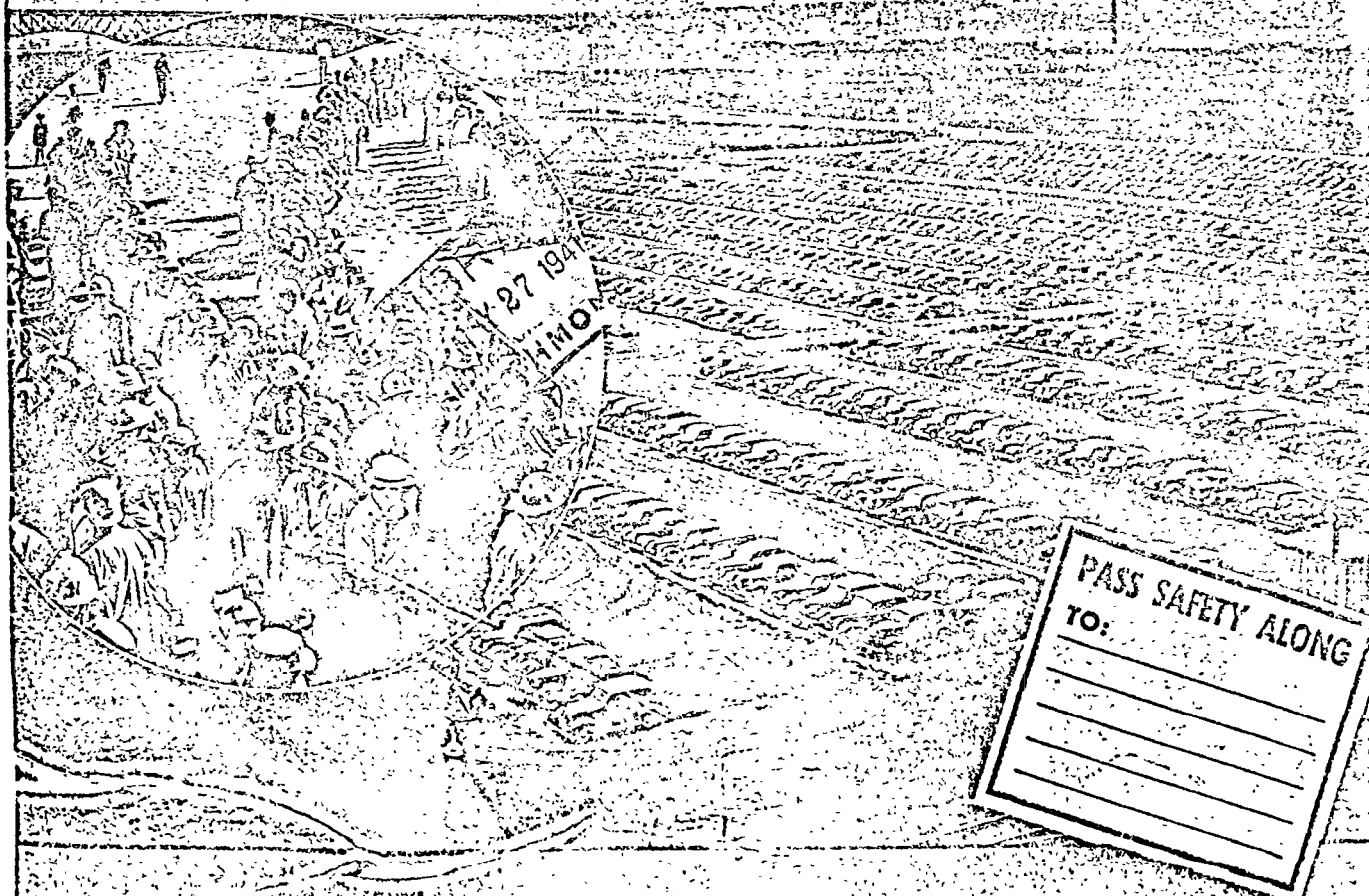
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Prospects for

SAFETY



SILICOSIS IN ODD PLACES

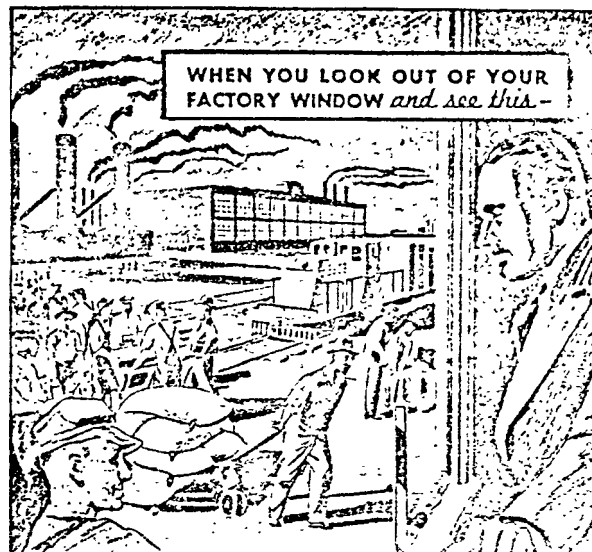
NORMALLY, one thinks of finding silicosis hazards in the foundries, in the potteries, in the floor and wall tile plants, and in the stone cutting industry, but sometimes workmen are exposed to silica dust in industries foreign to those generally considered as hazardous. Management often does not realize that it is subjecting those who handle silica flour or operate a small unventilated sand blast for a short time each day, to a lung disease that might terminate the life of an employee many years before his normal time. No employer wants to remember that John or Jim died needlessly due to inhaling silica dust when, if the hazard had been known, it could have been avoided.

Management in the Dark

Recently, a claim for total disability due to silicosis was awarded to an employee of a paint manufacturing plant. Investigation showed that the management did not realize that there was anything in the plant that could cause silicosis. This plant manufactured several types of paint, one of which was a roofing mixture consisting of a liquid asphalt, silica flour and asbestos. The inert ingredients were mixed with the asphaltum in large tanks. The asphaltum solution was first pumped into the tank and agitated; then the affected employee dumped silica flour and ground asbestos through a chute, located on the second floor, into the asphaltum tanks. The silica flour was purchased in paper bags. The employee cut the bag and dumped the silica. He would shake the bag, not knowing that the dust stirred into the air was slowly strangulating his respiratory system and would, in time, totally disable him. He did likewise with the asbestos which was purchased in jute bags. Both of these powders cause a fibrotic condition to develop in the lungs. The diseases are termed silicosis and asbestosis. Had the management known what the outcome might be, not a man among them would have allowed his employee to work in such a condition. They would have installed a ventilation system at the chute where the silica flour and asbestos were dumped into the asphaltum tanks. The hazard would have been removed in this manner. It is too late now for this company to help the man who has contracted silicosis, but it can prevent his successor from suffering by removing the dust, according to the Ohio Industrial Commission.

Ask for Help

Do you have such a problem in your plant? The Safety and Hygiene Divisions of the State Industrial Commissions are prepared to assist you in evaluating the hazards in your plant.



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