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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

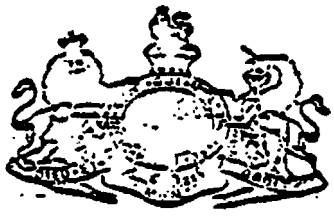
CHIEF INSPECTOR

OF

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

For the Year 1899.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.



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obtained a certificate from an approved doctor stating that they are free from [illegible], abscesses, or eruptions of the skin. These certificates must be gathered and kept where they can be examined on demand by the Inspector.

11. The employer must put the health of his workers under the care of a doctor, whose name and address he shall send to the District Inspector. This doctor must examine the workers at least once a month, with a special view to discovering [illegible] skin or diseases of the nose and throat.

12. The employer must see that the workers pay attention to abrasions of the skin even of the slightest kind, especially on their hands, and that they are treated at once by the doctor, or other responsible agent chosen by the doctor, and properly bandaged. Daily before the beginning or during the course of work the doctor or his agent shall examine the hands, arms, and faces of the workers.

13. By order of the doctor all workers showing symptoms of chrome poisoning, for example, abscesses or perforations of the membrane of the nose, shall be suspended from work until complete recovery, but all workers showing marked susceptibility shall be permanently excluded from employment in chrome processes.

14. The employer must keep a [illegible] register himself or by his appointed agent, and be responsible for the completeness and accuracy of the entries so far as they are not made by the doctor. The register shall contain :—

(1) The name of the employer or agent.

(2) The name of the appointed doctor.

(3) The name of any sick worker.

(4) The nature of the affection and occupation of the worker.

(5) The date of the affection of the worker.

(6) The date, recovery, or termination of employment.

(7) The date and results of the general medical examination prescribed by Rule 11.

15. The employer must lay down rules for the workers which in addition to indicating the precautions prescribed in Rules 5 and 6 touch on the following :—

(1) Workers must not bring food into workrooms, and meals may only be taken in the place provided in accordance with Rule 8.

(2) The worker must wear his appointed overall, respirator, and other means of protection in the workrooms and processes for which they are prescribed.

(3) The worker must thoroughly wash hands and face before meals : at the close of work and before leaving the works must take off the working clothes provided, carefully wash hands and face, and rinse his mouth and nostrils. Warning must be given in the rules for workers that anyone repeatedly disregarding them will be liable to dismissal without notice and before the termination of the agreement.

16. An abstract or copy of the above Rules 1 to 15 shall be affixed in every workroom and in cloak room and dining room in such a way that it can easily be read.

(A) *Various dusty processes.*

Among other dusty processes which engaged the attention of *Miss Paterson* and myself in 1899 were those in works for the manufacture of non-conducting jacketing for pipes, involving use of asbestos (the injuriousness of which substance was demonstrated in last year's report), and certain hempen-rope and sail-cloth works. In both sets of factories the action necessary to secure exhaust ventilation required for the removal of the dust from the point at which it is generated has extended into the present year.

In the latter class of work we found a curious, unnecessary, and most undesirable mode of employment of little girls, whose duty it was to pack refuse of flax and hemp into large bags or sacks. In order to pack the material tightly, they got inside the sacks and vigorously tramped it down. Apart from other objections, the necessary inhalation of excessive quantities of the dangerous dust, and the absorption of it in their clothes, made it most desirable to put an end to the practice.

(B) *Fur-pulling and horse-hair.*

Something has been done, though not nearly as much as I could wish had other pressing work permitted, to follow up administratively the work begun by way of enquiry into the unhealthy condition in hatters' furriers' works (*see* pages 166–8 of last year's report). *Miss Paterson* and *Miss Squire* have taken steps to secure improved ventilation in some of the worst cases, and *Miss Squire* secured [illegible] for their work. I was much impressed by the effects of mercury on the workers, as shown