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production capacities of the various lines.

In regard to the De Laval and Sharpless separators, it might be mentioned that this construction was used in the separator about 50 years ago (Woolshelm patent) and is still a fire type.

In spite of the fact that the writer is sure that there could have been more detailed information and drawings given that great credit is due the author for his efforts.

BARTHOLOMEW VIOLA.¹⁴

For and Against

TO THE EDITOR:

I have just finished reading the communication¹⁵ from Mr. Sanford A. Moss published in the August issue, and may say that I agree heartily with Mr. Moss in saying that the editor can be proud of the papers he has published on strictly engineering subjects. I would go further, however, and say that, in my opinion, the editor can also be proud of the papers he has published on economic and social matters.

I am sure that it would be very difficult to determine whether the so-called nontechnical papers which have been published in MECHANICAL ENGINEERING in the last few years "have had an effect on the progress worth the cost to the publisher of printing them." I do feel very strongly, however, that unless knowledge of the social and economic needs of the people is better understood, and that by people, and unless such needs are met in all phases of human activity, there may be grave danger of failure to realize the full benefits of technical progress which engineers have made possible.

Perhaps I may be pardoned for quoting a critique of Professor Cabot of Harvard University in which he was discussing papers presented at the Seventh International Management Congress dealing with administrative and financial problems:

"I may say: first, that the business administrator has shown ability of a high order in dealing with what might be called his immediate material." The existence of large industry proves this. Second, he is beginning to recognize that "the society within" and "the great society" outside of it are composed of human beings about whom he does not know enough. But he is making progress by applying scientific methods of observation and research to the "society within." Third, in his dealings with "the great society" he still goes largely by "smell."

Brooklyn, N. Y. Member A.S.M.E.

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING, AUGUST, 1939, p. 751.

In fact, in this field he closely resembles a blind dog in a meat shop. Fourth, he has violated the principle of balance, . . . by allowing himself to become engrossed in the fascinating techniques of . . . administration, while he has neglected the social and human problems of his business, which are its foundation. Under these circumstances, he must now focus his attention on his social problems for the purpose of developing adequate techniques of observation and treatment. Only thus can he restore the balance which is an essential condition of the life of large-scale business.

In other words, my plea to you, Mr. Editor, is that you continue your present policy of publishing not only excellent papers on strictly engineering subjects, but likewise excellent papers on social and economic matters.

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TO THE EDITOR:

I certainly want to add my small voice to the protest raised by Sanford A. Moss in his letter¹⁸ in the August issue which objects to the printing of so many articles dealing with sociology.

In these days of brain trusters, when one must spend so much time combatting ill-advised and crack-pot legislation, it is very disconcerting to slip into an easy chair with your favorite magazine and find that it, too, is wandering far from its proper field into what at best is only theory.

Please give us more articles dealing with the definite things in which we are interested so that our magazine may nearer live up to its title MECHANICAL ENGINEERING.

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REVIEWS OF BOOKS

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

ASM-47

Medicolegal Phases of Occupational Diseases

MEDICOLEGAL PHASES OF OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES. By C. O. Sappington, Industrial Health Book Co., Chicago, 1939. Cloth, 5 1/2 x 8 1/2 in., 405 pp., illus., charts, tables, \$2.75.

REVIEWED BY THEODORE F. HATCH.¹

IN 1928 only ten states made any provision for occupational-disease coverage under their workmen's compensation laws. By 1938, however, the number had doubled and several additional states had under consideration proposed laws respecting health hazards in industry. During this same ten-year period the number of states engaged in the study and control of industrial health hazards increased many fold.

In the early part of the decade under consideration, before new legislation had been adopted, there was frequent recourse to the courts for the settlement of claims with respect to occupational diseases which were not covered by existing compensation laws.

Because of these rapid changes in and extension of state laws, much interest centers around the medicolegal phases of occupational diseases. Hence, the present volume is a valuable contribution to the literature. Dr. Sappington has made no

attempt to prepare a treatise on industrial hygiene but has presented in outline form in Part I some of the more important aspects of the problem in industry including the causes of occupational diseases, standards of permissible exposure, procedures for conducting industrial-hygiene surveys and technical methods of air analysis, and finally the control of occupational disease.

The remaining three parts have to do with insurance, medical, and legal problems.

For insurance carriers, the author recommends the same specific approach to the evaluation of health hazards that are followed in basic scientific studies of hazards with close cooperation between the engineering, medical, claim, and other departments of the organization. It is emphasized that physical inspections alone do not yield sufficient information to permit a final evaluation of occupational disease hazards. The importance of the application of preventive measures can never be overemphasized by the insurance carrier.

The function of the industrial physician is to discover and treat occupational diseases and to establish and conduct the necessary program of medical prevention of such diseases. An important activity in connection with the latter is, of course, the routine physical examinations of workers and their placing in occupations suited to their physical conditions. While the industrial physician is not ex-

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