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## OCCUPATIONAL DISEASE TOPIC OF CONFERENCE

### Prominent Physicians Speak at Event Sponsored by Bureau—Prevention of Infection Highly Important

The National Bureau of Casualty and Surety Underwriters carried on, during Thursday and Friday of last week, one of the most interesting and significant events in its history, a two-day conference on occupational disease, with particular emphasis on silicosis. For two days from ten o'clock in the morning till late in the afternoon, an audience of from eighty to one hundred home office claim men, medical men and engineers heard national and international authorities on silicosis and other occupational diseases discuss the problems that are involved from the standpoint of diagnosis, treatment and prevention, together with the equally difficult problem of dealing with the claim situation and finding a satisfactory way of providing compensation for the worker.

The conference originated in the desire of General Manager James A. Beha to pass on to the company members of the Bureau the information that had been acquired by members of the Bureau staff and of the companies who were in attendance at the recent conference on silicosis at Saranac, conducted by The Edward L. Trudeau Foundation, but the plan was amplified by the addition of other speakers representing the best modern knowledge on the subject. Friday noon those in attendance were taken in buses to the plant of the Kelley-Atwell Corporation at Long Island City where dust removing rock-drilling machinery was in operation. The result of the whole undertaking was the presentation of the occupational disease problem and the silicosis problem in particular, in such a fundamental, authoritative and yet popular way as to be extremely illuminating and valuable. The conference was particularly significant as marking a definite step in advance in the development of the technical side of the casualty insurance business.

The success of the conference, while largely due to the excellent contributions made by the representatives of the member companies and the Bureau staff, was also largely due to the cooperation of the New York Tuberculosis and Health Association in helping in the organization of the program and to the cooperation of Dr. A. J. Lanza of the Metropolitan Life, the outstanding national authority on silicosis, and to the cooperation of the other distinguished speakers.

The first speaker was Dr. R. N. Gray, surgical director of the Aetna Life, who gave a comprehensive presentation of the subject of silicosis, its cause and control. Dr. Gray was followed by Dr. A. D. Lazenby, chief surgeon of the Maryland Casualty, who gave an equally comprehensive discussion of the clinical aspects of silicosis. Both Dr. Gray and Dr. Lazenby were at the Trudeau Conference and their addresses covered the outstanding features of that conference.

Dr. J. A. Goldberg, secretary of the Industrial Hygiene Committee of the New York Tuberculosis and Health Association, followed with an account of the work done by his committee in the occupational disease field in New York City during the last few years and with particular reference to the more recent work which has been done very largely in cooperation with the National Bureau.

Dr. Henry H. Kessler of New Jersey, who has had a wide experience in the industrial accident field, and particularly with regard to the silicosis situation, next gave a paper on the silicosis situation in general and with particular reference to his experience in New Jersey.

The next speaker was Dr. J. B. Amberson, Jr., head of the department of pulmonary chest diseases of Bellevue Hospital, who showed a series of films and discussed them in detail in connection with an address on the X-ray diagnosis for silicosis.

On Friday the first paper was by Dr. Lanza. He gave a general discussion of the nature of dust diseases of the lungs. The next two speakers were also from the Metropolitan Life. Dr. W. J. McConnell gave an address on asbestosis and P. A. Petrich an address on the sampling and counting of dust, which was illustrated by means of machinery which had been brought in.

After the return of the party from seeing the dust removing rock drilling demonstration in Long Island City, Charles Deckel-

man, manager of the claim department of the Travelers, and chairman of the Committee on Occupational Diseases of the Association of Casualty and Surety Executives, gave an excellent discussion of the claim and legal situation as respects occupational diseases, an address that was comprehensive, understandable and sympathetic. He cited numerous decisions illustrating the tendency of the courts to expand the compensation field. Mr. Deckelman spoke also of the work that is being done by his committee.

As there is very little that can be done of a remedial nature with regard to silicosis and most of the other occupational diseases, the last paper by Wesley M. Graff, director of the Safety Engineering Division of the National Bureau, had a peculiar significance for his paper dealt with engineering methods for prevention. Mr. Graf gave a very complete discussion of the preventive possibilities from all angles that formed a particularly suitable and practical close for what had proved to be a most successful and worth while occasion.

## F. & D. PROMOTIONS

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New York in 1928. During Mr. Roosevelt's presidential campaign, Mr. Griffin served as chairman of a nation-wide association of insurance Democrats, which had been organized for the purpose of supporting the candidacies of Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Garner.

### THOSE AT LUNCHEON

Among those who attended the luncheon were: John S. Turn, vice president in charge of New York office of Aetna Casualty & Surety; A. G. Oakley, manager of the New York office of U. S. Fidelity & Guaranty; Paul Rutherford, vice president of the Hartford Accident in charge of the New York offices; W. L. Allen, manager, bonding department of the New York office of the Standard Accident; M. L. Jenks, vice president of the American Surety; Hale Anderson, vice president of the Fidelity & Casualty; F. J. O'Neill, president of the Royal Indemnity; F. G. Morris, president of the Standard Surety & Casualty; J. R. English, vice president of the Standard Surety & Casualty; T. S. Griffin, engineer, Standard Surety & Casualty; G. H. Reaney, president of the U. S. Guaranty; Bennett Ellison, member of the firm of Hoey & Ellison; J. J. Magrath, Deputy Superintendent, Insurance Department, State of New York; Joseph A. Flynn, of Flynn, Harrison & Conroy, Inc.; James A. Beha, general manager and counsel of the National Bureau of Casualty and Surety Underwriters; F. R. Stoddard, arbitrator, New York City Agency Committee, Acquisition Cost Conference; Clarence Axman, editor, the Eastern Underwriter; J. K. Ennis, advertising manager, Insurance Department, Journal of Commerce; M. W. Lewis, assistant manager, Towner Rating Bureau; J. A. Walsh, of Walsh & Walsh, Inc.; C. J. Walsh, of Walsh & Walsh, Inc.; H. F. McGann, of McGann & Cahill; G. W. Will of Stewart, Will & Connell, Inc.; E. T. Fox, of Fox & Pier, Inc.; D. R. Holmes, member of C. W. Sparks & Co., Inc.; George L. Radcliffe, first vice president, Fidelity & Deposit; Walter H. Duff, manager of the New York office of the Fidelity & Deposit; Richard J. Hill, Jr., assistant manager of the New York office of the Fidelity & Deposit; H. R. C. Hickey, manager of the Brooklyn office of the Fidelity & Deposit, and H. J. McCooley, resident vice president of the Brooklyn office of the Fidelity & Deposit.

## Hurt Pushing Piano

Whether a clergyman assisting at a turkey supper and bazaar at his Parish House should be compensated for a hernia which he said he suffered as the result of pushing a piano across the floor will be settled by the Courts of New Jersey. The Workmen's Compensation Bureau directed that the Redeemer Lutheran Church of Newark should pay its pastor, the Rev. Paul Arndt, compensation for the injuries he suffered during the piano pushing. The Church has appealed the issue.

## Globe Contest Successful

E. J. Schofield, vice president of the Globe Indemnity, announces that the company's Prosperity Contest which commenced on January 1 and ended on April 30 was a big success. During this time the commissions earned by agents approximated \$1,330,000. Mr. Schofield expressed himself as being highly satisfied with the results obtained. Appropriate prizes were awarded to the winners in the various classifications.

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