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General Electric Company, Bridgeport, Connecticut.
September 24, 1923, W. S. [illegible] Clark, General Manager.
F. B. Ellis, Wiring Supplies.
J. R. Baldwin, Fan Motors.
S. F. Powell, Conduit and Wire.
Dr. F. A. Taylor,
Mrs. N. A. Barney, in charge of women.

Wiring Supplies Department. Ellis accompanied me. 30 B, small machine section, chiefly women. Safety devices are good, chairs only fair; all are using treadles, no rest for other foot. The treadle is easy and they are introducing fitrites. Light is good, air fair. All of the bubblers are of wrong design. 160 employed, 10 men.

Small room next for finishing and coating. Ventilation is excellent, there are good hoods over the lacquer work which is done by about seven girls. Next to it are eight girls polishing, with exhausts. What is the abrasive used?

The women's lavatory has sinks of the best type, paper towels, but no soap. Water closets are good, but no locks. The cloak room has to be kept locked because coats hang in the open.

31 B. There are not many in this room. There is some attempt to provide foot rests. The light reflects from the metal parts, making a glare. Perhaps some device could support arms and elbows here. These women are on day work, those in 30 B on group incentive. There is very little individual piece work now, about 85% are on group incentive. In 30 B the women have ten minutes pause morning and afternoon, the periods being staggered, starting at 9:15 A. M.

31 A. There is good light and air here, men employed on screw making and plating and bright dipping. Excellent new shafts and exhausts. The shafts are vertical and the opening is just above the rim of the acid tank, about 3 inches. It works better than the slanting ones, some of which are still here.

All exhausts over hot cyanide, hot alkali and acids will be of the new kind.

The supply room is separate and one man takes charge of mixing acids and cyanides, ever since the accident in Schenectady.

There is an automatic buffing machine and one sand blaster who cleans small goods under cover wears a respirator and is in a small separate room. Cyanide hardening is in one corner, screened off and provided with two systems of ventilation, one carries off the fumes through pipes from the furnace and the other from the front of the hood in order to catch fumes from the ladle.

32 A. Ellis (ENYS) says that they use steam to "neutralize" the lacquer in the fume pipes and also acid fumes, as they are carried off. This is because of possible complaint from people living near the plant. The potash tanks and hot water tanks are well covered and no steam escapes.

30 A. Both men and girls here, some of the latter sit on a platform three feet above the floor in wooden chairs, not bad but not adjustable. The hot work, washing and baking, is at the end by the window. There are some women on punch presses. These are mature women, strong looking, the presses are mostly not high, there are foot rests and good safety devices. In packing, the women must be on their feet but they are given chairs. The pause is given to these women, who are on group work, for the same reason that gives it to women on the conveyor system, namely to control evenness of work or to relieve machine work which is too tiring. The selection depends partly on whether it is undesirable to have girls eat on their job, the great majority come to the plant without breakfast or with a scanty breakfast, and they eat in the course of the morning. Practically all utilize the ten minute pause to eat their breakfast. About 60% have it now.

28 C is packing.

29 C. Low benches with chairs fairly good, foot rest a board under the bench. The benches run across the room. This is determined by the size of

the goods. If the goods are big the benches must run lengthwise. These girls are young, working on radio parts. They have no pauses but are allowed to lunch at their bench.

30 C. 250 girls. This is the assembly system. All the chairs are Gitrites, well adjusted; there are foot rests and pauses. In one corner by the window ground flint is mixed, but one man handles it with great care, mostly before work begins. Women use it only after it is in paste form. There is no dust. They use mica but it is already cut.

The rest room is now open all the time. It is large, nicely furnished, with fine rattan furniture, curtains and shades. Mrs. Barney is in charge. It serves 1300 girls and there are two cots in a small separate room. Ellis thinks it is sufficient. He says all cases of heat exhaustion go to the dispensary. Girls who ask to lie down are allowed to, but must be reported to the dispensary. At the other end is a lunch room with tables, used morning and afternoon and at the noon hour. Mrs. Barney says there are three rest rooms. In 28 E for office girls, in 24 C and 30 C for factory girls, and a small one in 33 B for warehouse girls. In the rest periods most of the girls eat a lunch. The small room is her own. She needs another cot. Last summer she had to use both cots and the settees of the sitting room and that was not enough. This same room needs also either a larger window in the outer wall or ventilation through the windows into the rest room, which could be made to open down. She needs an electric pad and three more rocking chairs in the rest room. The women are often very tired. The hours are seven till five, with one hour off at noon, and five hours Saturday. In 24 C she needs an electric pad and the same change in the window. Both are also needed in 28 E for office girls. She makes a very good impression.

A small cafeteria in this building provides coffee, milk, soft drinks sandwiches and pie. There are chairs with arms, but most of the food is carried off. Under Dr. Taylor's directions milk and chocolate are served free of cost twice a day to 20 to 30 women.

Dr. Taylor. He has few cases of oil lesions and thinks they are all due to sand soap. He says that most surgeons use tetanus anti-toxin for penetrating wounds, but he does not. He provokes bleeding, uses mercurochrome, and keeps the wound open with surgical silk. The lubricating oil here is treated with sulpho-naphthol.

The rubber department is much changed. Rubber is now delivered already compounded and almost no litharge is used. They may have to use benzol on the zinc of the sunshine lamp.

30 E. A few girls are soldering here. They have hoods. The chairs are old. The powder is plaster of Paris and whiting, not soapstone. Zinc chloride is the flux used in soldering, but they expect to do away with solder and use bruzing, which is done by machine tended by one man. The room is hot.

31 E. Group incentive is used here, 50 women in each group. The chairs are old. There are some poor postures and poor seating. There are shields in front of the machines to keep the hair from catching and the oil from spurting out. Some women are using treadles, the chairs are rather high, old style and no foot rests. The air is only fair.

31 C. Cool and not crowded. The chairs are old, no foot rests. They use solder here and zinc chloride behind a glass screen. The girls on machines here might have elbow rests for the edges of the pans are sharp. They are well guraded against accident, but they have no foot rests and the chairs are poor. The machines for wax or resin are good.

26 C. This is a winding room; three women and about nine men. They are mostly watching machines and have little to do, but are on their feet all the time. Steam is driven into the room. There are open tanks of wax here, not bad now but when they start it up in the morning the fumes are bad and sometimes during the day. There can be no hood because the fire extinguishing apparatus has to be just above. Six to eight are employed are this end.

25 C. Also machine winding, but heavier material and there is no steam. About the same number as in the first room.

23 C. There is an odor of gasolene as one enters from the corridor. This is the fan motor division under Baldwin, making also refrigerator hardware and sun lamps. There are soldering kettles 2½ inches in diameter, and resin in alcohol as a flux. A tiny fan opposite the worker draws the smoke away. No zinc chloride used. There are old chairs and new, foot rests fairly good. About 85 girls. The odor of gasolene comes from two tanks of naphtha asphalt and two pails of naphtha at the end of the room.

The soldering of shading coils is hooded and there is a fan beside the operator. This is needed because many are soldered at a time is makes more smoke.

25 D. Assemble and test room. For desk fans. This is a small room where special lacquer is sprayed on. The exhausts are good, there is no trouble.

23 B. Carbon tetrachloride in a tank with water on top to keep the fumes from escaping is used to wash parts. They cannot use paphtha, it is too near to heat. The washing is automatic under a long hood, then the parts go into a water tank with an electric current, then Oakite, which is potash, then hot water, and then drying. It is all enclosed and no odor escapes nor even steam. These parts go to the sprayers of enamel and the baking ovens which are beside the open door. It is baking enamel, not pyroxylin. There are no fumes, the exhausts are good. Buffing is done

on fabric wheels which are made here. There are hoods over the wheels. They polish the leaves of the fans with tallow held against a brush. There is one automatic buffer which can be used for any flat surface, has six wheels and will supplant hand work.

In Baldwin's department 350 are men, 125 women.

23 J. Punch press room. Men employed. Safety devices good. One woman is here, sitting on a high chair, curving her spine and jerking down with each pressure of the treadle. Soldering is done under a hood. The kettle is about 6 by 12 inches. A man does it.

September 25th. Conduit and wire, under S. T. Powell. Mr. Lapeson took me around. About 500 employed.

25 B. Winding wire and copper braiding. There are 50 women here; they stand all day. They are said to have chairs, but I saw none. The floor is good, of composition and where it is slippery there are wooden platforms. There is much noise and vibration. The night shift is all men. It is a nine hour day and no morning or afternoon pause in Powell's division.

25 A. Rubber department. No compounding is done, only sheets of new and of reclaimed rubber are worked up together. The room is excellent, there is little dust, the air is clear. One half of the room is the tubing department and over each tubing machine, which is closed when working, there is a hood for suction. Vulcanizing is done in pans in horizontal autoclaves. There is an elaborate dust removal system. De-panning after vulcanization is enclosed so as to keep the dust from escaping. The ~~XXIX~~ wire is drawn out by a machine and the dust is drawn out at the top of the enclosure which is a cell about 6½ by 5 by 5 feet. The pans are then cleaned of soapstone by a great vacuum cleaner.