FILE NAME: Chrysler (CHRY)

DATE: 0000

DOC#: CHRY076

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: News Article from Medical Journal - New Chrysler Laboratories

The Association for the Advancement of Industrial Medicine and Surgery

Inc.

Executive Office - 370 Lexington Avenue, N. Y. (Room 904)

PURPOSE: *To disseminate accurate medical knowledge in reference to the diagnosis and treatment of all conditions arising out of and in the course of employment.*

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charges, as well as given a bill of particulars so that they may be in a position properly to defend themselves at the hearings.

Mental Hygiene as Applied to Industrial-Accident Prevention

OUR present methods of accident prevention* are based on the presumed need of awakening employees to a sense of responsibility for their own safety. To do this, we spend considerable time trying to scare them into looking out for themselves. Posters showing the horrible results of accidents are prominently displayed. Speeches are made in which the suffering at home as a result of loss of income is vividly explained, and articles are written telling large groups of workers to "do this" or "do that" to avoid dreadful consequences. A number of the individuals for whom this propaganda is prepared pay complaisant attention—and then apply the lesson to someone else. Our general educational campaigns are, no doubt, leaving many things undone.

According to the best authorities, at least 85 or 90% of all accidents are as their proximate causes the mental conditions of workers. This estimate relegates the remainder of accidents to machine or material failures, "acts of God," and various more or less indefinite causes. The mental conditions that result in error are lack of knowledge, inattention, confusion, and often an unwarranted sense of superiority typified by the "it-cannot-happen-to-me" attitude. These terms, of course, overlap and are dependent for their existence on a number of things, such as experience, training, worry, fear, fatigue, exhilaration, or some mental subnormality, all of which tend to expose the individual worker to hazard.

Accident investigation and analysis usually stop at the first cause, in as much as most plants are not equipped for further analysis and their executives believe it impracticable to go into psychological causes further than to note that the man was inattentive, disobedient, or, perhaps, careless.

* EDWARD R. GRANNISS, Travelers Insurance Company, Hartford, Conn., in *Mental Hygiene*, 1935.

New Chrysler Laboratories

THE Industrial Hygiene Laboratories of the Chrysler Corporation began operation on January 1, 1936. These laboratories, located at the Dodge Main Plant of the Chrysler Corporation, in Detroit, are devoted to the study of occupational diseases and their sources, together with other agencies and conditions of work leading to industrial health hazards. The Laboratories are under the direction of Dr. Stewart F. Meek, as industrial hygienist, with Dr. Cordon C. Harrold, as chemist; they were planned under the direction of Dr. Carey P. McCord, who remains associated in the capacity of adviser and consultant.

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