

Memorandum on Meeting at Lowe Bros., Dayton, Ohio, 7-25-46

Those present were Messrs. Daniels, Fasig, Blue and Blackwell for Lowe Bros., and Mr. Cholak and Dr. Ryder for the Kettering Laboratory.

The group met to discuss the report on "the concentration of lead and other industrial dusts in the air in the workrooms of the plant of Lowe Bros., Inc., Dayton, Ohio, of July 22, 1946" (I) by J. Cholak, the "medical report on the status of survey of the plant of Lowe Bros., Inc., Dayton, Ohio of July 24, 1946" (II) by H. W. Ryder, and plans for further studies of the plant and men.

Mr. Fasig discussed the statement in I, p. 1, that "leaded-zinc pigment . . . had not been used for some time prior to June 7." He stated that certain of the greens contained lead chromate and that that pigment is used in powder form. He also discussed the statement of I, p. 3, "This irritation was due, undoubtedly, to the presence of acrolein." It was his opinion that phthalic anhydride was the irritant. Mr. Cholak felt it was acrolein, and that the problem could be settled by chemical analysis. In response to a request for information on the toxicity of acrolein, Dr. Ryder stated that the hazard was considered to be of the same order as phosgene. Mr. Fasig felt that back-drafts down the stacks were impossible because of the design of the stacks.

Mr. Fasig was interested in the relation between the average particle size and nearness to the source of

dust generation. The physiological significance of particle size was discussed.

Mr. Cholak explained the significance of the procedures on I, table 3, in the analyses of the dusts. He also pointed out the difficulty of analyzing for phthalic anhydride in the presence of organic acids.

It was agreed that the suggested studies on the men exposed to lead (II, 1) be done, ^{in the case of} ~~with~~ all the warehouse workers and, at the start, the mixers with the principal lead exposure, ^{these to be} examined at the Kettering. Arrangements were made for examining 20 men at the Kettering during the first two weeks in August. It was agreed not to enforce dust mask protection for the mixers (I, 5) until this medical study is completed, but it was inferred that conclusions 1, 3 and 4 (I, 5) would be complied with at once.

The problem of further studies of [redacted] and [redacted] because of their X-ray findings "consistent with pulmonary tuberculosis", was discussed. Dr. Ryder felt the hazard of pneumoconiosis was controlled at the plant, and that the company should assume no responsibility for having contributed to the development of lung disease in these men. Mr. Blue agreed to inform the men of the X-ray findings and refer them to their own physicians.

Mr. Fasig felt that carbon monoxide was not a hazard at the varnish plant, inferring that it could not be generated by the operations, and that it had been tested for in the past and found absent. It was agreed that the suggested studies in the varnish and lacquer plants be carried out, essentially as projected in Mr. Cholak's original report.

The first point to be done, the week of August 5th, will be the study of the thinner hazards in the lacquer plants. These are principally the acetate esters, aromatics, butanone, and butyl alcohol. The latter two will be studied if enough of these products are used to warrant it. It was agreed to leave the determination of the choice of hazard to be studied to the discretion of the Kettering Laboratory.

Report by:
H. W. Ryder, M.D.
J. Cholak, Ch.E.

Date: July 26, 1946