

Tuition will be \$75. Course #484. Applications should be sent to the Office of the Recorder, New York University Post-Graduate Medical School, 550 First Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016.

Personnel Changes -

When Gerald Kazmerski, Industrial Hygienist I, Region VII (Philadelphia), resigned recently it was found that the current civil service list for this position included the names of six females and one male! And why not? — After appropriate interviews Miss Patricia Bradley has been appointed Industrial Hygienist I in Region VII. In this capacity she will be the first of the fairer sex to hold such a position in this division since World War II days. We wish her well. — Other appointments to Industrial Hygienist I positions include: James Woodring and Norman Brown, Region III and George Tomchick, Region II. Barry Lewis and Joseph Flanagan are new Radiation Health Physicists I and II in the Central Office and Joel Lubenau is Radiation Health Physicist III in Philadelphia. Mrs. Josephine Brinley is a Nurse II in the Employee Health Service.

Notes from our Regional Offices -

Officials of a plant producing pigment-vinyl dispersions and phonograph record compounds recently requested our services to evaluate employees' exposure to various contaminants. Of particular interest was the exposure during intermittent manufacture (5-day run every two months) of a lead molybdate-vinyl dispersion. The company had isolated the manufacturing area, installed local exhaust ventilation on the roller mill and listed specific handling instructions on process sheets. These instructions included the washing of hands and face before eating and smoking, the use of a respirator (United States Bureau of Mines approved for "all dusts"), the daily changes of coveralls and care in pigment handling. The company was quite sure these "elaborate" safeguards would adequately control exposure to lead dust. In actual practice during our sampling periods, the men failed to obey the above instructions and the process speed necessary to produce a quality dispersion precluded slow careful handling. Atmospheric concentrations of lead ranged from 0.7 to 3.7 milligrams per cubic meter of air. The threshold limit value is 0.2 mg/m³, based on exposure over an eight-hour working day. Urine lead concentrations ranged from 0.15 to 0.33 mg/liter immediately after the finish of a five-day run and from 0.07 to 0.13 mg/liter two weeks later with no additional lead exposure. Urine lead concentrations exceeding 0.15 mg/liter are usually indicative of excessive lead exposure. As per our recommendations, the company plans to tighten exposure controls, increase the coverage of the local exhaust ventilating system and evaluate employees with blood-lead determinations.

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Another case of serious mercury contamination in a neon sign-producing plant was found during the month. The contamination was so excessive throughout the building that it was necessary to "zero" the mercury vapor detector out-of-doors. Of the more than twenty such firms surveyed, two have had serious contamination problems and most did not have adequate control measures. Few plant officials knew of the health hazards associated with the use of mercury. In one instance, mercury contamination was detected on the living room rug in the plant owner's residence (0.01 milligram per cubic meter of air). In all cases, appropriate recommendations were made.

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