

FOUNDATION FACTS

This news-letter is issued monthly to member companies and trade associations affiliated with Air Hygiene Foundation. Its purpose is to report Foundation news and activities. Air Hygiene Foundation is a partnership of industry and science organized to protect the health of the 15 million workmen in heavy industry.

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Beware of "Black-Outs"

For months the Foundation has warned that, "Increased production increases health hazards --- demands greater precautions." In this connection comes a report from a member company headed "A BLACK-OUT OF SAFE PRACTICES" which discloses a 147% increase in lost time accidents in February over February 1940 with only a 33% increase in hours worked. While the Foundation's field is industrial health, rather than industrial accidents, the above experience is a significant warning. Remember, the Foundation can help you increase your precautions to safeguard employee health through industrial hygiene surveys, appraisals of ventilating equipment and other services. A slogan of 1917 was, "Food Will Win the War." Today it is more accurate to say, "Health Will Win the War."

Dr. Haythorn Honored

Dr. Samuel R. Haythorn, Medical Advisor on the Foundation's staff, was recently elected President of the American Association of Pathologists and Bacteriologists. Dr. Haythorn, who is Director of the Singer Memorial Laboratory, Allegheny General Hospital, Pittsburgh, was also elected Vice President of the International Association of Medical Museums.

New Members

Latest companies to affiliate with the Foundation are Merck & Company and Hazel-Atlas Glass Company, both well known organizations.

"Group Discipline" Can Eliminate Need For Government Control

U.S. Senator Alexander Wiley (Wis.) said in a recent address: "I prefer to see governmental control voluntarily applied on a cooperative basis with the individual and the group, or even better, I prefer to see individual or group discipline which is so effective that it eliminates the need for government control...."

"As far as I know, the greatest achievements in safety have resulted from the organized effort of comparatively small groups cooperating with government rather than by arbitrary government control alone. In other words, the greatest advances in safety have resulted from intelligent self-discipline rather than arbitrary government control....."

The above applies with equal force to industrial hygiene. This Foundation represents voluntary, organized action by representative industrial concerns for the conservation of employee health. This is the American method of dealing with socio-economic problems. Instead of 250 companies there ought to be 2,500 companies participating in Air Hygiene Foundation.

Annual Index Issued for Monthly Digest

Enclosed with this issue of the monthly Digest of Industrial Hygiene is the annual index for 1940. The Index is intended to assist Foundation members in locating specific data. Additional copies are available if desired.

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- 259 Phagocytosis of Foreign Material in the Lung. O.H. Robertson. *Physiol. Rev.*, 21, 112-39 (January, 1941).
The author reviews the modes of entrance, distribution and disposition of foreign material in the respiratory tract. First, the progress of foreign particles to the lung is impeded by the sinuous course of the nasal passages, the sticky mucous character of the surfaces, action of the cilia of the membrane and the cough reflex. Disposition of the material that has entered the terminal respiratory units is less simple. The principal method is by phagocytosis by amebic cells, the type of cell employed depending upon the character of the foreign matter. Bacteria such as the pneumococcus are handled by the polymorphonuclear leucocytes, which appear in great numbers. However, with mineral dusts, the large macrophage normally present in the region goes into action. They quickly engulf silica dust particles and carry them rapidly to lymph vessels and lymphoid tissue. On occasion the amebic cell degenerates, leaving the silica free in the parenchymal tissue. With asbestos, the process is somewhat different on account of the large size of the dust fiber. Macrophages accumulate around the fiber and form giant cells in which the so-called asbestosis bodies appear. Inasmuch as the lung appears to act as a filter for foreign material injected intravenously, it has been suggested that the pulmonary capillary endothelium carries on phagocytic activity. The evidence, however, is to the contrary. The same is true of the cells lining the tracheo-bronchial tree. A bibliography of 155 references is included.
- 260 Asbestosis in Grinders and Drillers of Brake Bands. Brachmann. *Arbeitsschutz*, p. 172-4 (1940). (German).
Brake bands are made of sheets of asbestos, or are pressed out of asbestos waste products and a filler, impregnated with artificial resin. Afterwards the bands and plates are ground and drilled. In Saxony all workers in asbestos plants must be examined annually. Clinical and x-ray examination of the grinders, drillers and men who file individual pieces has shown a few light cases of asbestosis after 2 years' work, and in nearly all such workers after 5 years employment. *
- 261 The Struggle Against Asbestosis Today. Ehrhardt. *Arbeitsschutz*. pp. 191-3 (1940). (German).
The paper is a brief description of asbestosis, rather than an account of the struggle against it. The author states that no relationship was found between nasal dust filtering ability and degree of asbestosis.
- 262 Methods of Avoiding the Dust Danger in Asbestos Plants, Valid from August 1, 1940. Anonymous. *Arbeitsschutz*. pp. 263-5 (1940). (German).
The new regulations concerning exhaust systems, established by the manufacturers, insurance association and German factory inspectors, are described. The efficiency of the systems must be tested by a representative of the insurance association.
- 263 Regulation to Change the Regulation Regarding Manufacture of Glass, Grinding, Etching, Painting, Glass Containers and Related Industries, Dated September 13, 1940. Anonymous. *Arbeitsschutz*, p. 263 (1940). (German).
The German regulations prescribe that x-ray examinations be made of all workers employed at certain jobs in rooms where glass containers or refractory materials are produced or where sandblasting is conducted. The examinations are repeated every second year. All persons engaged in producing lead-containing mixtures or using lead colors are to be examined at least every 6 months.

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