Dr. Hamlin

THE IMPORTANCE OF INDUSTRIAL MEDICINE



A talk given at a luncheon of the
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by

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Many years ago our friend Dr. Tony Lanza testified as an expert in a compensation case in St. Louis. The plaintiff's lawyer was a brilliant young man and made the most of his opportunities in showing up the bad plant conditions of the defendant's company. After court was adjourned, Dr. Lanza met the young lawyer in the hall. His comment was, "Dr. Lanza, you've been in industrial medicine most of your life. I'll bet you that I've cleaned up more plants in six months than you will in your whole career." Incidentally, that shyster was later disbarred. Fortunately, Dr. Lanza is still one of the outstanding leaders in the field of industrial medicine.

In that period and until fairly recently I would have been amazed to hear that a group of college presidents thought industry would give in large sums to medical education. It certainly hadn't occurred to me that our company would ever give for this purpose. Time does run on. Unexpected experiences turn out to have been waiting around each corner. But progress is amazingly slow. A large part of our education seems to result from the beatings we take and too often need as we go on our way.

In 1929, as the newly installed president of Brake Shoe, I was in need of an awakening as to the working conditions in our foundries.