

FILE NAME: Crane Company (CRC)

DATE: 1936-1949

DOC#: CRC103

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Barry Castleman 1997 Notes on Industrial Medicine
Journal Issues, 1936-1949

April 9, 1997

Re: **Industrial Medicine**

I've spent three days reviewing back issues from 1936, 1938, 1939, 1942, 1949, and part of 1943, probably 3000-3500 pp.

1. To readers in the 1930s there were periodic mentions of asbestosis, in articles on dust diseases and workers' compensation, etc. This is from two years of the journal in the late 1930s, at a time when corporate America was relatively anxious about dust diseases:

AJ Lanza "Asbestosis" 5: 90, 1936.

RW Childerhouse, "Clinical Aspects of Silicosis" 5:224, 1936.

H Behneman, "Silicosis Pneumoconiosis" 5:400, 1936.

LU Gardner, "Essentials in the Diagnosis of Silicosis and Tuberculosis" 5:453, 1936.

JW Reed, "Silicosis" 7:310, 1938.

CO Sappington, "Medicolegal Trends: Occupational Diseases" 7: 331, 1938.

H Higburg, "Occupational Disease Compensation" 7: 364, 1938.

CD Bridges, "Practical Problems Under Blanket Coverage for Occupational Diseases" 7: 390, 1938. (advance conference announcement) "Industrial Hygiene: A.P.H.A. ... "Asbestosis" talk by Sayers and Dreessen, Lanza leading discussion) 7: 589, 1938.

"Postgraduate Course in Industrial Hygiene" includes two talks on asbestosis, one led by Paul G. Bovard, *Pittsburgh Plate Glass*. 7: 549, 1938. Other talks by EC Barnes and TL Hazlett of *Westinghouse*. 7: 549, 1938.

ER Hayhurst, "New Books" ref to ILO's encyclopedia supplement new/revised chapters on asbestos and pneumoconiosis. 7: 592, 1938.

CO Sappington, "Industrial Hygiene Meetings" reports on RR Sayers' presentation at APHA on his study with Dreessen. Summary of presentation on 727 has cautionary modifier not included in the published report (which defendants sometimes use): "A concentration of 5 MPPCF is considered as a tentative threshold." Another speaker was C Selby, consultant to *General Motors*. 7: 723, 1938.

There was also a long piece on history of industrial medicine by T Legge, first Medical Inspector of Factories in Britain in the 1890s, with this unreferenced sentence: "A Fiel published a report on asbestosis in an asbestos worker in 1872." 5: 375, 1936. Having never heard of Fiel, I have sent word to a former thesis adviser now at the National Library of Medicine, to start looking for it.

2. Company notes:

Chrysler set up Industrial Hygiene Laboratories on Jan. 1, 1936 at the Dodge Main Plant in Detroit (5: 51, 1936)

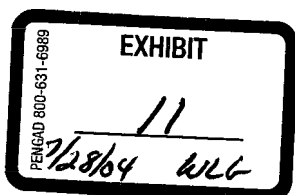
Chrysler Medical Director in Detroit was John J. Prendergast. (7: 347, 1938)

After Met Life's Fehnel talked on asbestos sampling technique, election of Amer. Ind. Hyg. Assn. officers took place for the first time, and *Chrysler* I.H. Gordon Harrold was elected to a post. (8: 301, 1939)

Selleck and Whittaker 50th anniversary book of IMA in 1962 says Dr. Carey McCord was medical adviser to *Chrysler* in 1937 (p. 280) and 1949 (p. 411).

WJ McConnell of *Met Life* listed an impressive array of non-governmental programs in "investigation and prevention" including 5 employers: *Chrysler*, *DuPont*, *General Motors*, *Union Carbide*, and *Westinghouse*. (8: 70, 1939)

Saranac's Dr. Gardner spoke on "The Pneumoconioses" at a symposium on industrial medicine also taught by *Chrysler's* Carey McCord and John Prendergast, *DuPont's* Foulger, *General Motors'* Selby, Brooks, and Bird. (11: 395, 1942)



Westinghouse Medical Director T. Lyle Hazlett and I.H. Edgar C. Barnes were often mentioned (See Postgraduate Course, WJ McConnell above, plus:)

"Medical-Engineering Control of Industrial Health Hazards" article by Hazlett describes removal of the source and protective devices as engineering safeguards against occupational hazards. (5: 232, 1936)

Industrial Hygiene Course offered by *Westinghouse's* TL Hazlett, quite detailed outline. (7: 194, 1938)

Westinghouse X-Ray Co. Long Island City, NY offered "litigation proof" device for taking employee X-rays (is this part of big *Westinghouse*?). (7: 449, 1938)

National Assn. of Manufacturers "Committee on Healthful Working Conditions" included 10 company docs, among them: Hazlett (*Whse*), Gehrmann (*DuPont*), McConnell (*Met*), Selby (*GM*), and Shoudy (*Beth Steel*). (7: 541, 1938)

AAIPS (old name of co. docs' group, Amer. Assn. of Indust. Phys. & Surg.) annual mtg. in 1939 had *Met Life's* Fehnel on asbestos air sampling in a program with Barnes speaking as well. Another speaker was Frank Patty, who soon after went to *General Motors* and authored a lengthy I.H. text in 1948, revised 1963. Other speakers were Shoudy (*Bethlehem Steel*), Selby (*GM*), Irish (*Dow*), (*GE*), (*Kodak*). (8: 200, 1939)

Hazlett continued to be involved increasingly in industrial medical education in 1942 as part of the War effort. (11: 115, 419 and 484, 1942)

Westinghouse industrial hygienist EC Barnes wrote about "Analyzing Working Environment" in the company's publication, **Safety News** in Sept. 1942. (11: 603, 1942)

Hazlett clearly had access to the Board Chairman of *Westinghouse*, who awarded him the *Westinghouse* Order of Merit in July 1942 (11: 391, 1942)

(See also last two G.M. entries below)

Bethlehem Steel Dr. Loyal Shoudy and Dr. Floyd Shaffer were on the program of the AAIPS/NSC joint program at the Natiponal Safety Congress in 1936 along with speakers Hunt and Lanza who mentioned asbestosis (BC 4th Ed. p. 735-736). So was Dr. McIver Woody (*Std. Oil NJ*) (5: 441, 1936)

Shoudy and Shaffer were also on the Board of Directors of AAIPS and on the publication committee for **The Bulletin**, which I understand was subsumed by **Industrial Medicine** around 1939. I have never seen this journal and am checking for it at Nat'l Library of Medicine. (5: 275, 1936)

Charnock of *Beth Steel* described the firm's industrial medicine and hygiene activities. (18: 332, 1949)

(See also last two entries above under *Westinghouse* for ref. to BSC)

General Motors employed Dr. Clarence Selby from 1934 until 1949 as medical consultant. (7: 278, 1938; 18: 6, 1949)

Selby was a pillar of the industrial medicine establishment, see above CO Sappington and last two *Westinghouse* entries. Also:

Selby was among the speakers at first *General Motors* Corporation Medical Conference in 1938. (Aug. 1938)

Selby was on the AMA Council of Industrial Health organized in 1937 (along with Lanza of *Met Life* and Gardner). (7: 276, 1938)

General Motors gave Saginaw General Hospital in Saginaw MI an industrial medicine library in early 1949, including journal subscriptions and more than a dozen books that spoke about asbestos hazards, including: Hueper's 1942 book on occupational cancer; Wampler's text in 1943 (chapters also contributed by Foulger of *DuPont* and Hazlett of *Westinghouse*); and Collier's 1941 text that cites "maintenance of steam pipes" as hazardous. (18: 107, 1949)

1949 (11th) *General Motors* Medical Conference included author/industrial hygienists Frank Patty and Vincent Castrop (BC 4th Ed. p. 546), medical consultant and **Industrial Medicine** editor Dr. Clarence Sappington, CD Selby, UK Medical Inspector of Factories T. A. Lloyd Davies, *Westinghouse's* TL Hazlett, and several dozen G.M. doctors. (9: 353, 1949)

DuPont Medical Director George Gehrmann's presentation "Industrial Medicine and Toxicology" describes many ways toxic substances cause harm. He refers to silicosis as "chronic, progressive, and incurable." (5: 204, 1936)

DuPont Haskell labs director John Foulger was on a program at Harvard where Drinker and Clark discussed asbestosis. (5: 550, 1936)

Gehrmann and Foulger joined other corporate experts, including Hamlin (*American Brake Shoe and Foundry*), Shoudy (*Beth Steel*), Woody (*Std Oil NJ*), and Hall (*General Motors*), as instructors in industrial medicine. (11: 484, 1942)

Gehrmann and Foulger were clearly among the inner circle in industrial medicine and toxicology (see numerous entries above).

Hercules Powder Co. Medical Director Lemuel McGee spoke on "Other Occupational Disease Factors" at the National Safety Congress Oct. 29, 1942 (11: 490, 1942) and at the American Industrial Hygiene Association in 1943 (12: 86, 1943).

Railroads. Editors of **Industrial Medicine** in 1936 included BL Coley of *New York Central System*, JG Frost of *Chicago and Eastern Illinois Ry. Co.*, as well as some insurance industry docs, etc.

The journal claimed to be the "official publication" of Amer. Assn Railway Surgeons, Assn of Surgeons of New York Central System, Assn of Surgeons of Southern Railway System. (5: 461, 1936)

Other RR groups whose meetings were announced in the journal were Pacific Assn of Railway Surgeons, Texas Railway Surgeons Assn. (Galveston, 5/9/38)

Another journal I would like to examine is **Medical Bulletin** published starting in 1932 by *Std. Oil NJ* (8: 122, 1939). See ref to Meyer and Church article in this source in 1961, BC 4th Ed. p. 411. Also seeking that at Nat'l. Library of Medicine.

I have just gone through 4 old volumes of **Industrial Medicine** in the Hopkins medical library and have found these things on DuPont:

1. DuP Med Dir George Gehrmann's presentation "Industrial Medicine and Toxicology" shows sophisticated awareness of the ways toxic substances kill people. He refers to silicosis as "chronic, progressive, and incurable". (5:204, 1936)
2. At a symposium at Harvard later in 1936, DuP's Dr. Foulger spoke on a program with others including Drinker and Clark who discussed asbestosis. (5: 550, 1936)
3. In 1938, the National Association of Manufacturers set up a select committee of company medical men, and one of those included was Dr. Gehrmann. Others were Hazlett (Westinghouse), Shoudy (Beth Steel), Selby (Gen. Motors, and McConnell (Met Life).
4. In 1939, McConnell listed the non-governmental programs in occupational health. The 5 "employers" noted were "duPont, Union Carbide and Carbon, Chrysler, General Motors, and Westinghouse." (8: 70, 1939)

It is fair to conclude from this that DuPont was a leading industrial firm in occupational health, that DuPont doctors, including Foulger at the chemical company's Haskell Laboratory for toxicology and industrial medicine, were aware that asbestos was a dangerous dust in the 1930s. DuPont officials were regular speakers at professional gatherings, and the company's leaders and program in this field were accorded the highest recognition by their peers in industry in the late 1930s.

Barry Castleman, Sc.D.
bcastle@mail.bcpl.lib.md.us

Note New Address:
2412 Pickwick Rd., Baltimore MD 21207 USA
tel. 410-448-2648 fax 410-448-2368