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INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE DIGEST

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Industrial Health News



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FOUNDATION FACTS

Foundation Facts is a monthly news-letter devoted to industrial concerns holding membership in Industrial Hygiene Foundation. The Foundation is a combined research and service institution to protect the health of workers in industry.

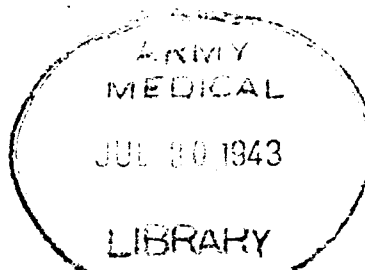
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H. B. Meller



Dr. H. B. Meller, formerly managing director of Industrial Hygiene Foundation and a world authority on air pollution and smoke prevention, died in a Pittsburgh hospital on Sunday evening, June 27. He was 65 years old. Burial was made at Altoona, Pa., on July 1.

Formerly Dean of the School of Mines at the University of Pittsburgh, Dr. Meller had headed Mellon Institute's air pollution investigation since 1923. He became managing director of Industrial Hygiene Foundation when the organization was formed in 1935 and directed the Foundation until last September when failing health forced him to relinquish active management. He had continued as a Consultant. His direction accounted in a large measure to the upbuilding of the Foundation during its formative years.

Through his work at Mellon Institute for two decades, Dr. Meller became known internationally as a specialist on air pollution. Also, through these efforts, Pittsburgh adopted an anti-smoke ordinance which became a model for other cities throughout the country. He headed Pittsburgh's Bureau of Smoke Regulation from 1920 to 1938.

As an indication of his contribution to air hygiene, and at a time when the field was little known, Dr. Meller published some 30 articles and was senior author of a dozen other articles written with associates. These were exclusive of the scores of papers which he presented before distinguished groups through the years, including such organizations as the New York Academy of Medicine, the Franklin Institute, the American Chemical Society, the American Public Health Association and the National Safety Council.

Born in Altoona, Dr. Meller first went to work for the Pennsylvania Railroad Company as a clerk. In 1900 he became clerk and later secretary of the faculty of the Department of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. After attending the University and the Michigan College of Mines he joined the University of Pittsburgh faculty as an instructor in 1910. He became Dean of the School of Mines in 1914 and held that position until 1923 when he came to Mellon Institute.

- 75 Disinfection with Moving Hot Air. H. Kliewe. Ztschr. f. Hyg. u. Infektionskr., 123, 727-733 (May, 1942). (German).

Cultures of five species of non-sporing and two of sporogenous bacteria were dried on filter-paper, and these were placed in linen bags which were distributed among packages of clothing in a hot air sterilizer. Cultivation of these test objects after the maintenance of different temperatures for various periods showed that in order to be sure of destroying non-sporing bacteria it is advisable to use a temperature of 100°-110°C. for 1½ hours; the temperature necessary for destroying spores (130°C. sufficed for those tested) is such as would damage fabrics. Hot air sterilization is therefore unsuitable for clothing if total disinfection is required, but the usual object is to destroy the agents of infectious diseases, which are non-sporing bacteria and viruses. As might be expected discontinuous heating for short periods on successive days was no more effective than continuous heating for the same total period.

- 76 Heat and Ventilation in Air Raid Shelters. W.J. McGuinness. Heat., Pip., & Air Cond., 15, 193-196 (April, 1943).

This article gives the requirements for heating and ventilating air raid shelters. The various types of bombproof and splinterproof shelters are shown. The bombproof type is too expensive to construct, hence the most common type is the splinterproof. Shelter size is fixed by number of occupants. No more than 50 people should be placed in the same room. Space and volume requirements for overground and underground shelters are given in a table. Heat requirements are low because of the number of occupants, however, heat losses in England are different from ours because of climatic conditions. On this basis an underground shelter is preferable for American climatic conditions because of the lower ground temperatures which aid in heat loss maintenance. Ventilation requirements are given and the various types of systems employed are illustrated. Mechanical systems with filtration are recommended.

- 77 Wartime Operations Emphasize Industrial Hygiene Problems of Asbestos Industry. Illinois Labor Bull., 3, 10, 11, 22 (February 28, 1943).

The control of asbestosis must be an engineering control because there are no medical means to detect the disease until much harm has been done. Engineering control consists of two important principles: (1) Adequate exhaust, (2) Good housekeeping. By experiment it has been estimated that if the air contains less than 5,000,000 particles of asbestos per cubic foot there is small chance of the workers developing asbestosis. The article lists the procedures in the manufacture of rigid and of textile asbestos products and shows that further protective measures are still needed in most plants.

Industrial Medical Practice

- 78 Industrial Health - Its War and Postwar Significance. C.O. Sappington. Ind. Med., 12, 361-364 (June, 1943).

The paper considers war and post war problems of industrial health, which are classified into those of medical administration, those of public health in industry and in the community and those relating to industrial hygiene and sanitation in the plant. Brief but rather comprehensive discussions of the following problems are presented: Venereal disease control; Nutrition; Immunization; Preplacement and periodic examinations; Women in Industry; Dermatoses; Absenteeism;