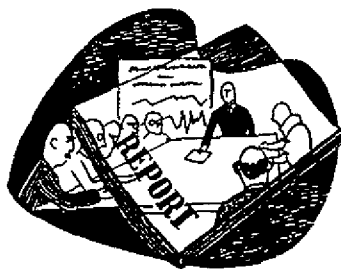


Massachusetts Holds Worker Health Conference

Through the cooperation of the Massachusetts Division of Occupational Hygiene and the Merrimack Valley Nurses Club, an outstanding program was arranged for the Merrimack Valley Conference for Health Workers in Industry, held on November 22, 1947, in Lowell. Much of the planning was done by Mrs. Sarah E. Almeida, R. N., State industrial nursing consultant.

Highlights of the conference were talks on "Interdepartmental Relationships" by Prof. Herman H. Brase, Lowell Teachers College; "Combating Absenteeism" by Dr. Robert B. O'Connor, Liberty Mutual; "Expanding the Medical Department" by Dr. Benjamin Lambert, Sylvania Electric Products, Lowell; and "Emotional Illnesses" by Dr. Warren Stearns, psychiatrist and professor of sociology at Tufts College. Particularly stimulating were the discussions in groups led by authorities on each subject.

Leading industrial health workers and educators in the region attended this meeting, including nurses covering plants having a total-worker population of 32,000.



Industrial Health Conference to Meet in England, 1948

The Ninth International Congress of Industrial Health is scheduled to convene in England, September, 1948. Meetings are planned for both general and special sections to be held from September 12 to 17. All communications should be addressed to: The Secretary, The Ninth International Congress on Industrial Medicine, 14 Hobart Place, Westminster, London, S. W. 1, England.

COSTS OF INDUSTRY'S HEALTH FACILITIES

Dr. C. O. Sappington summarized the findings of a 2-year plant-to-plant survey in a speech titled *Administration Functions and Costs of Industry's Health Facilities* given at the Industrial Hygiene Foundation meeting in Pittsburgh, Pa., Nov. 20, 1947. He said, in part:

"The findings from this 2-year field study, covering 278 plants in 33 States, help piece together the story of what industry is doing about the health of its employees and how this is being done.

"Administration.—Taking the person in charge of the health or medical service as an example of administrative policy, we find physicians in charge in half of the groups, nurses in 6 percent, and other persons in 43 percent. However, in the largest plant grouping (10,000 employees and over) physicians were in charge in 90 percent of the cases.

"Taking another example of the administrative relationships, in more than one-third of all establishments, reporting was done direct to top management by the health department; the three divisions of safety, industrial relations, and health were administratively on a par in approximately 40 percent of all plants; and the health department had the final word on health problems in approximately 43 percent of all plants.

"Functions.—Comparing those functions which have been well established over some period of time with those which are newer, there was great variation in both types according to population groupings in the different sized plants; but those functions not so well established (that is, newer) showed greater variations in the size breakdowns. Preplacement examinations showed the highest percentage in all groups (72 percent); return-to-work examination after illness or injury (65 percent); provision for dispensaries (61 percent) and periodic examinations (60 percent). The largest plants of 10,000 employees and over showed high pluralities (above 90 percent) in all of these functions, while the smallest plants (under 500 employees) showed less marked but nevertheless definite pluralities in the doing of preplacement, periodic, and return-to-work examina-

tions. Less than half of the smaller plants provided dispensaries.

"Justification.—Benefits may be divided or classified as economic, professional, and social.

Economic Benefits

"Prompt treatment—prevention of infection and other complications.

"Early control of disability.

"In-plant service more economical.

"Decrease in spoilage.

"Better control of medical, hospital, and insurance expense.

"Good care more economical than high compensation rates.

"Healthy worker more productive.

"The manager of a chemical plant figures that a sick absence costs the company at the rate of a dollar an hour. On this basis, obviously any reduction in sick absence is bound to add up to a sizeable sum over a large group of workmen for the period of a year. Good working conditions reduce labor turnover. A conservative figure is that each turnover case costs a company \$100. On the basis of the dollar-an-hour figure for absences, and \$100 per case for turnovers, the company found that it saved \$4.08 for every dollar it had spent for industrial health."

Los Angeles Holds Industrial Health Conference

Los Angeles' first industrial health institute was an all-day meeting held at the Riviera Country Club last November 18. The institute was sponsored jointly by the Industrial Health Advisory Committee of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce and the Section of Industrial Medicine and Surgery of the Los Angeles Medical Association.

Some of the speakers and their subjects were: Carl Peterson, M. D., Secretary, Council on Industrial Health, American Medical Association, "History and Economic Aspect of Industrial Health"; F. E. Poole, M. D., medical director, Lockheed, Rexall, and others "Organization of Plant Health Services"; A. A. McDermott, supervisor of plant hospital, Warner Bros. Studio, "Industrial Nursing"; Henry L. Clark, General Motors Corp., "Management Views Industrial Health Programs"; and, E. F. Stegen, M. D., National Physicians Committee, "Industrial Health and the Community."