

PREVENTION OF LEAD POISONING IN DRY COLOR WORKS

Wherever possible, absolute cleanliness is the first requisite. Good suction for the collection of dust should be piped to all places where large amounts of dust are made. The man should be compelled to wear muzzles wherever their work is very dusty. This respirator is called "Cover's Automatic Patent Respirator". Each man should be provided the first time he works, with two clean suits of white overalls. At the end of his first day, the outer suit goes to the Laundry, the inner suit to be worn outside the next day and a clean one inside. In this way one suit of overalls per day keeps a man with two suits on him.

The washing of these overalls need not be very fine, but must be thorough enough to get all the lead out. They do not need to be made perfectly white.

Each man should be made to take a shower bath, for which we allow fifteen minutes time, before leaving at night, and should be obliged to wash his hands and face before meal time at noon. No food should be allowed to be eaten within the range of dirt.

In case of symptoms of Lead Poisoning, which are first shown by pains in the stomach and blue lines around the gums, the free use of powdered licorice should be employed until the bowels are in good shape, and simultaneously with that the man should be treated with potassium iodide, 4 grains to the dose in about one-half tumbler of water give twice a day, morning and evening. This is for mild cases. Anything serious should be immediately turned over to a physician, and it is advisable to have periodical inspections by a competent physician.

We have found it advisable to provide the men with large gauntlet gloves, which last from six weeks to two months, according to the work, and which cost \$1.00 per pair. These have great influence in preventing lead poisoning, as much lead can enter the system through the finger nails. The general principles on which we have worked is that more lead enters the system by being converted into soluble lead salt by the perspiration than that which enters through the breathing apparatus, so that if we keep the skin and hands clean, there is little danger.