

Pennsylvania workers, injured in the course of their employment, have received compensation for their injuries ever since the original Workmen's Compensation Act became effective January 1, 1916. But the worker disabled by occupational disease—as much a victim of his employment as his co-worker who sustains a physical injury—has thus far received no compensation for his disability.

It has been only within recent years that society has come to recognize its obligation to workers disabled by industrial disease. Assumption of the obligation has followed recognition—20 other states, including most of the industrial states, now have occupational disease compensation laws. In Pennsylvania, in addition to such common industrial hazards as lead, benzol and carbon disulphide, there is the serious problem of anthracite-silicosis among the anthracite miners.

Recognizing its obligations, the administration drafted an occupational disease supplement to the Workmen's Compensation Law, which was introduced by Representatives Eugene A. Caputo, of Beaver County, and Arthur R. Schor, of Philadelphia County. A digest of the new law, together with some of the results of investigations of industrial disease hazards, are featured in this issue of the Bulletin.

Robert M. Boehne

Secretary of Labor and Industry

Harrisburg
December, 1937

