

Undoubtedly, our field will be a much larger source of employment in the future, generating need for new forms of training and continuing education in such fields as biostatistics, data collection, storage and retrieval in support of epidemiological research as well as documentation of compliance with occupational health and safety standards. Among IHF's research programs for 1971 are data collection studies on employee mental health and cigarette smoking and sickness absence. Clinical and environmental information collected by industry—and fed anonymously into IHF's central repository of toxicological data—will have unique value in setting and validation of standards for human exposure, and this program will continue and grow as rapidly as experience and constraints of time and funds will allow and through liaison with organizations such as the American National Standards Institute.

Industrial health gives every indication of being an idea whose time has finally arrived, and we in IHF wish to further its application and real progress in our field to the maximum advantage of all concerned. Companies and industries are being forced by austerity to apply the same type of sound management in the fields of environmental and occupational health that they are using in every other area of productivity and economic loss control. As a result, at a time when more superficial programs of all types are experiencing increasing difficulty in surviving, those which are soundly based in relation to measurable benefits in employee health and safety for the limited costs incurred are having a continued—and even an accelerated—growth pattern. The increasing shortage of qualified industrial health personnel at the national level is being more widely recognized as having reached crisis proportions and alternatives to employment full time of qualified occupational health specialists will need to be found. The coming year and decade are bound to witness much greater utilization of non-technical personnel who should perform more effectively, following completion of short courses under the continued competent professional occupational health supervision available within IHF.

In conclusion, let me take this opportunity to express thanks to Foundation members for their past guidance in helping IHF bring into better focus the real health needs of industry's workers today, and to solicit their continued interest and support.

Robert P. de Treville