

FILE NAME: General Refractories Company (GRC)

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1942

New Members

During 1942, 11 more companies and associations affiliated with Industrial Hygiene Foundation in the organization's efforts to promote healthful working conditions, namely:

General Motors Corporation	Koppers Company
Flintkote Company	General Refractories Company
Owens-Corning Fiberglas Corp.	Omere Chair Company
Employers Mutual Liability Insurance Co.	Strathmore Paper Company
Dresser Manufacturing Company	Davison Chemical Company
Pacific Coast Association Pulp and Paper Manufacturers	

There are now 246 company and association members in the Foundation. These organizations, practically all of them directly engaged in war production, employ between 2 and 3 million war workers.

Plant Hygiene Surveys

The introduction of unfamiliar and new chemicals in manufacturing processes, some with little known toxic effects, is demanding even greater attention to plant hygiene measures. Meanwhile the dermatoses continue to be the most common of all occupational diseases.

The Foundation has conducted more plant hygiene surveys than in any previous year. These investigations, supervised by Frank R. Holden, checked on the possible existence of health hazards in the workplaces. If hazards are detected, effectual measures are devised for their correction. Besides fostering healthful working conditions, the Foundation's plant surveys are proving to be an increasing factor in advancing harmonious labor relations, helping to eliminate working conditions which are often sources of discontent, such as nuisance dusts and fumes.

The Foundation collaborates actively with governmental agencies, both state and federal, which are interested in industrial health. One evidence of this cooperation is the subscription classification started early in the year whereby governmental agencies can secure all Foundation publications at less than cost. Since this arrangement was initiated 12 months ago, 4 federal agencies including Army and Navy, 22 states, and 5 cities have subscribed for Foundation literature. Meanwhile, 3 universities and 4 private specialists have also availed themselves of this material.

Research

The Foundation has continued to support medical and engineering research in industrial health with grants to The Saranac Laboratory, University of Pennsylvania and Harvard School of Public Health. Findings from these studies have been published. Then, too, an important study in toxicology is under way for a member company at Mellon Institute.

Publications

Two medical and two engineering bulletins have been issued to members during the year. These publications, giving the results of research are as follows:

1. Comparison of Stereoscopic Miniature Chest Films, Single Roentgenograms on Paper, and Single Roentgenograms on Large Films.

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MEMBERS OF INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE FOUNDATION

- G -

Garco Products, Inc.
Gardner Machine Company
General Abrasive Company, Inc.
General Aniline & Film Corporation
General Grinding Wheels Corporation
General Motors Corporation
General Refractories Company
Glenshaw Glass Company, Inc.
A. P. Green Fire Brick Company
Grinding Wheel Manufacturers Assoc.

- H -

The Hall China Company
Hamilton Emery & Corundum Company
Hampden Grinding Wheel Company
Hawley Products Company
Hazel-Atlas Glass Company
Hercules Powder Company
John W. Higman Company
Mauricio Hochschild S. A. M. L.
O. Hommel Company

- I -

Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd.
Industrial Silica Corporation
Inland Steel Company
Interchemical Corporation
International Business Machines Corp.
International Nickel Company, Inc.

- J -

Jackson Mills Emery Company
Jamison Coal & Coke Company
Johns-Manville Corporation
Jones & Laughlin Steel Corporation

- K -

Keasbey and Mattison Company
Kennecott Copper Corporation
Keystone Emery Mills
Kimble Glass Company
The Kirk & Blum Manufacturing Company
The Edwin M. Knowles China Company
Koppers Company

* Multiple Membership

- L -

Homer Laughlin China Company
Lava Crucible Company of Pittsburgh
E. J. Lavino & Company
Lead Industries Association

- M -

Mackintosh-Hemphill Company
Macklin Company
Magma Copper Company
Maryland Self-Insurers' Association
Mayer China Company
J. S. McCormick Company
Metropolitan Life Insurance Company
Mexico Refractories Company
Mid-West Abrasive Company
Mine Safety Appliances Company
Monsanto Chemical Company
Mutual Chemical Company of America

- N -

National Association Fan Manufacturers
National Association of Mutual Casualty Companies
National Crushed Stone Association, Inc.
National Grinding Wheel Company
National Industrial Sand Association
National Lead Company
National Sand & Gravel Association
National Slag Association
National Steel Company
National Supply Company
The Neville Company
New Jersey Zinc Company
North American Refractories Company
Norton Company
Norton Pike Company

- O -

Ontario Mining Association
Oriental Abrasive Company
Ottawa Silica Company
Owens-Corning Fiberglas Corporation
Owens-Illinois Glass Company

delivered addresses. Among these were Mr. A. C. Eirth, a lawyer associated with Williams, Eversman and Korgan, Toledo, Ohio, attorneys for Owens-Illinois Glass Company; Dr. Eugene P. Pendergrass of the X-ray Laboratory, University Hospital, Philadelphia; Dr. A. J. Lanza, Assistant Medical Director of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company; Dr. R. R. Sayers, Medical Officer in Charge of U. S. Public Health Service; Professor Philip A. Drinker of the School of Public Health, Harvard University; Mr. F. Robertson Jones, General Manager, Association of Casualty and Surety Executives; and Mr. Donald E. Cummings, Assistant Director, Saranac Laboratory for Study of Tuberculosis.

The addresses delivered by these specialists, together with the open discussion that followed them, revealed, among other things, the very menacing character of the problem, its complex nature, the uncertainties attending most of its aspects and the necessity of some form of united action by the afflicted industries.

It was recognized that some aspects of the problem were peculiar to special industries but it was equally evident that other aspects were common to all. For example, only two forms of dust, namely, free silica and asbestos, are definitely known to produce disabling fibrosis of the lung. Even in the case of these dusts the problems resulting therefrom are quite different since the fibrosis resulting from silica is of a much more serious character than that resulting from asbestos in that the former predisposes to tuberculosis and is much more likely to have a fatal termination. On the other hand (and this illustrates one of the most serious aspects of the problem that is common to all dust producing industries) the fact that no other dust is known to produce disability has not prevented entirely groundless claims aggregating millions and even hundreds of millions of dollars being brought against industries which have no silica or asbestos dust hazard. For example, Dr. Lanza pointed out that no one had ever maintained that gypsum dust was harmful and yet, nevertheless, the gypsum industry had suits pending against it covering claims in excess of four million dollars.

It appeared that among the problems common to all industries were the following:

- (1) The menace of ambulance chasing lawyers in combination with unscrupulous doctors. The uncertainties surrounding diagnosis of any of the various forms of pneumoconiosis are so many that a question of fact is presented in every case. Expert testimony can be produced by both plaintiff and defendant and it is for the jury to decide whose experts are

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correct in their interpretations. In making this decision, the jury is not likely to favor the opinion of the experts produced by the employer.

- (2) The desirability of making various dust diseases compensable under properly drawn workmen's compensation laws. One of the speakers stated that "the strongest bulwark against future disaster for industry is the enactment of properly drawn occupational disease legislation". Such legislation would (a) eliminate the jury and empower a Medical Board to pass upon the existence of the disease and the extent of the disability; (b) eliminate the shyster lawyer and the quack doctor since fees would be strictly limited by the law; and (c) permit the correcting of initial mistakes in the making of awards by providing for hearings to reduce or eliminate awards if proof could be adduced that the claimant was not disabled or that the extent of his disability had been overestimated.
- (3) Problems of ventilation, dust collecting and elimination, and respiratory devices.
- (4) The establishing of standards (a) for dust counting and particle size determination, (b) for the taking of X-rays for diagnostic use, and (c) for the interpretation of the markings on the films so produced.

At the close of the discussion a Mr. Kurtz, Vice-President of American Refractories Corporation, made a motion that Mr. William P. Yant, Chairman of the meeting appoint a nominating committee who would nominate a group of individuals to serve as a committee for the formulation of ways and means to bring about effective cooperation of some character between the various industries for meeting and combating those phases of the dust problem common to all. This motion was carried and a Nominating Committee appointed which retired and upon returning presented to the meeting the names of seven individuals to act as such Committee. No other names having been placed in nomination, the following were elected to act as the Committee and report back to the various industries and groups represented at the meeting or to whom the invitation had been originally extended:

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Vandiver Brown representing Asbestos, Cork and Non-Metallic

Dr. B. D. Saklatvala representing Chemical, Abrasives, Alloys and Non-ferrous metals

E. O. Jones representing Foundries

A. W. Sherwood representing Glass Sand, Ground Sand and Glass Manufacture

A. J. Genthof representing Iron, Steel and Ores

A. J. R. Curtis representing Lime, Limestone, Cement and Gypsum

Roger A. Hitchens representing Refractories, Ceramics and Clays

I explained to the other members of the Committee that I had been sent to the meeting solely as an observer and had no authority from Johns-Manville Corporation to accept membership on the Committee and certainly none from the Asbestos Industry as a whole. I was urged, however, to meet with the Committee and agreed to do so on the condition that I might withdraw if approval of my serving in that capacity should not be forthcoming. I pointed out that members of the Asbestos Industry did not care to be associated in the minds of the public or of employees with those industries whose problem was silicosis and that for this reason I felt there might be some opposition to having a representative of the Asbestos Industry working with them. I did indicate, however, that I realized numerous aspects of our problem were the same and that if cooperation could be worked out without an undue amount of publicity, Johns-Manville Corporation and perhaps the Asbestos Industry as a whole, would in all likelihood be willing to cooperate. It was the opinion of the Committee that this condition would not present any insuperable difficulty.

Mr. Roger Hitchens, President of American Refractories Institute, was made Chairman of the Committee which held a meeting Tuesday evening after the close of the Symposium. Mr. Hitchens was designated to meet with Mr. Weidman of the Mellon Institute and ask him to make a proposal in definite and concrete form as to the manner in which the Mellon Institute might be able to assist the various industries for a fee of \$25,000. When this proposal has been received and approved by the members of the Committee, it will be submitted to the various industries with the recommendation that it be accepted and that the various industries or individual corporations agree to stand good for a proportionate amount of the fee not in excess of a definite specified sum.

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I gathered that the proposal which would be made by the Mellon Institute would include, among others, the following:

- (a) The compiling of a comprehensive bibliography of all books, treatises and publications dealing with any aspect of the dust problem; and the evaluation thereof.
- (b) The compiling, digesting and correlating of data and information from various subscribing industries relative to their particular experiences.
- (c) The drafting of approved workman's compensation legislation covering pneumoconiosis.
- (d) The digesting of the laws of the various states which might affect the operations of industries presenting a dust hazard.
- (e) The outlining of problems requiring research or the establishment of fixed standards and the prevention of duplication of effort and expense along these lines.

The interest with which the discussions were followed and the enthusiasm which greeted the proposal for unified effort lead me to believe that the necessary support will be found for some sort of program along the above lines.

VANDIVER BROWN
January 18, 1935

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