

factors. Prolonged investigations involving programs of continuous monitoring indicate that the over-all levels of the concentration of lead in the air appear to have decreased during recent years. Air over heavily traveled streets contains more lead than does air over lightly traveled streets, and considerably more than the ambient air of representative large areas of the community. Alkyl lead compounds may be detected in the air in certain areas of gasoline service stations. Such compounds may also be detected at times in the atmosphere of heavily traveled streets. In any of the situations investigated, with respect to the presence of these compounds in the air in relation to the handling of leaded gasoline and the operation of automobiles, positive findings have been inconstant, and the levels of concentration found have been low, representing, as a rule, between 1% and 5% of the total lead in the atmosphere.

-- Author's summary

ACCIDENTS AND PREVENTION

- 516 Safety Glasses. Editorial (Cond.) New Engl. J. Med.
New Engl. J. Med. 270, 744 (Apr. 2, 1964).

The National Society for the Prevention of Blindness has recommended the use of safety lenses and frames by all—especially by children, students, persons with impaired sight and industrial workers. Recommended nonindustrial safety lenses (American Safety Code Z80) are of 2-mm. minimum thickness, shatter-resistant heat-tempered glass, in fracture-resistant frames. These glasses weigh a few grams more than orthodox types and cost \$3 to \$5 more. Resistance of these frames and lenses to accidental damage often makes the net cost equal to nonsafety glasses, even for growing children needing changes at relatively frequent intervals. Industrial safety lenses (American Safety Code Z2) are made of optical quality glass or plastic with a minimum thickness of 3mm. Frames for industrial use must be stronger and must be fire resistant. Such lenses can withstand the impact of a steel ball 7/8 inch in diameter dropped from a height of 50 feet.

- 517 History and Problems of Occupational Health in New England. G. F. Wilkins.
Arch. Environmental Health 8, 483-486 (March, 1964).

Efforts to protect the health of workers as a group were first undertaken and directed at the regulation of working conditions in the 19th century. In this field, the New England states had numerous firsts. New Hampshire passed the first law limiting hours of work. Massachusetts passed the first safety law applicable to steam operated machinery. Vermont employed the first industrial nurse. Connecticut passed legislation forbidding the employment in bakery shops of workers with contagious diseases. The first recorded example of physical examination on groups of workers took place in Rhode Island. In spite of the progress in the field of occupational health, numerous problems remain. Some are old; some are old with new variations; many are new, resulting from the rapid introduction of modern industrial processes and materials. The author includes specific examples of problems in each category.

-- J. Am. Med. Assn. References & Reviews

- 518 Pathology of Light-Aircraft Accidents. W. J. Reals, W. H. Davidson, and H. H. Karnitschnig
Aerospace Med. 35, 133-135 (Feb. 1964).

One hundred seventy-eight fatalities in accidents of light aircraft accessioned at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology (AFIP) from 1944 through 1962, are reviewed. Pre-existing disease, environment and traumatic factors are studied. Visceral trauma

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