

ANNUAL REPORT  
INDUSTRIAL HEALTH BUREAU

1951

The Laboratory of Industrial Hygiene

The services of the Laboratory offered to Group policyholders were discontinued on July 1, 1951. However, up to that date, health surveys were made in the plants of the following Group policyholders and recommendations were suggested to control health hazards found:

Otis Elevator Company, Harrison, N.J. - Special study of Circular Saw in Carpenter Shop.

Republic Steel Corporation, Alabama Mines and Mills (6), Birmingham, Alabama.

Republic Steel Corporation, Buffalo, N.Y.

Vulcan Detinning Company, Sewaren, N.J.

Otis Elevator Company, Yonkers, N.Y.

Analyses

Six hundred and forty three (643) separate analyses were made in the laboratory. In addition, many tests were made directly in the field to determine the degree or extent of contamination of gases, solvents, and other airborne contaminants.

Because of the discontinuance of the laboratory we had to refuse to make surveys of the plants and their branches of the following companies:

Belden Manufacturing Company, Richmond, Indiana

The Eagle Pencil Company, New York, N.Y.

The Philadelphia Evening Bulletin, Philadelphia, Pa.

Singer Manufacturing Company, Elizabeth, N.J.

Atlantic Refining Company (Non-service Group),  
Philadelphia, Pa.

|                                                   | <u>Branches</u> |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Armstrong Cork Company, Lancaster, Pa.            | 40              |
| Jones and Laughlin Steel Corp.<br>Pittsburgh, Pa. | 65              |
| Johns-Manville Company, New York, N.Y.            | 12              |
| Otis Elevator Company, New York, N.Y.             | 15              |
| Libbey-Owens-Ford Glass Company, Toledo, Ohio     | 8               |

#### Field Visits

Dr. McConnell visited the Closure Plant of the Armstrong Cork Company to discuss with Dr. W. D. Blankenship, Medical Director, their problem of toxic formaldehyde fumes.

Dr. McConnell visited the Cities Service Refining Corporation and Cit-Con Oil Corporation at Lake Charles, La., in connection with the general study of the organization by the Policyholders Service Bureau. He made recommendations for a more uniform and coordinated organization of their health program; inspected their medical facilities, and reviewed their health program with Dr. J. W. Crookshank.

Dr. McConnell and Mr. Barrett visited the Atlantic Refining Company, Philadelphia, Pa., to discuss the industrial health program and the possibility of conducting a plant survey.

Dr. McConnell visited the Diamond Alkali Company Plant and observed operations before discussing the Plant Medical Program. Such subjects as frequency of roentgen films of chests of workers exposed to chrome; medical records; collection and analyses of dust, vapor, and gas samples; setting up job analyses; and physical examinations of workers were covered.

#### Travel Credit

The incidental expenses for travel and maintenance incurred by our Field Men were borne by the Group policyholders for whom the surveys were made. The amount received during the year from these policyholders amounted to \$2,420.84. In addition, the amount of \$3,897.48 is still to be charged to Group policyholders for work completed during 1951.

#### Special Inquiries

Two thousand one hundred and eighty-one (2,181) requests for advice on health matters were received during the year from industrial firms, large and small, and local and national health organizations. The following will give some idea of the types of information requested:

Pre-natal and post-partum leaves for pregnant women in industry.

Reviewed list of physical deficiencies for rejection of prospective applicants for employment.

Information and statistics on overweight by age groups and sex.

Names of physicians competent to examine employees.

First-aid service - general practice and number and location of kits.

Maximum allowable concentration of noxious dusts, gases, and vapors suggested by the New York State Department of Labor.

Body odors in industry.

Material on poisons to be used by instructors in teaching first aid.

Installation of an industrial medical department.

Pre-placement and periodic physical examinations.

Sterilization of air by ultra-violet lamps.

Effectiveness of ultraviolet lights for sterilization of toilet seats.

Medical impairments due to deafness.

Day of week most colds develop.

Names of roentgenologists in Boston whose opinions would be recognized by Industrial Commission. Also proper x-ray equipment and technique for taking films to show silicosis or asbestosis.

Interpretation of chest x-ray films.

Safe use of an anodizing solution.

Space required for various jobs.

Should salt tablets be furnished for general use by factory workers.

Personal hygiene in industry.

Medical centers in New York City where a complete physical check-up can be obtained.

Effect on vision of fluorescent lights.

Value of vaccine in prevention of mumps.

Fair medical fee to cover examinations of employees by outside doctors.

Physical examinations for managerial personnel.

Analysis of plastic spray material.

Talk to employees on industrial dermatoses including definitions of primary irritants, sensitizers and allergies together with methods of prevention and environmental control.

Reviewed claims arising from malignant neoplasm of the respiratory system and the incidence of neoplasms of the respiratory system among employees of the printing trades.

Reviewed medical program and physical examination form, discussed hazards of certain toxic substances.

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Categories used in breaking down cases of non-industrial absences due to illness.

Sterilization of telephones.

Dust control methods.

Books and films on first aid and atomic energy for use in a first-aid course on civil defense.

Information on bactericidal lamps.

Possibility of toxic exposure to painters using sheepskin rollers.

Toxic limits for silica dust in mines.

Dermatosis from tetradamine in gasoline.

Use of trichlorethylene vapor in reducing respiratory disease.

Average weights by age, height, sex, and body structure for teen-agers.

Effect on health due to standing on terrazzo floors.

Laboratory apparatus to be used in collecting vapors due to flammable and inflammable solvents.

Data on bust girth and hip girth of women.

References on harelip and cleft palate.

Climatic conditions of Phoenix, Arizona and Denver, Colorado.

Amount of ozone that may be harmful to welders.

References on sex and marriage hygiene.

Relationship between aging and productiveness, accidents and illness.

Effect of television on eyes.

Hazards of sand blasting.

Information regarding salaries of dental hygienists, also vacation plans.

Occupational disease hazards in the chemical industry.

### Weight Control Program

Letters were written to the Medical Directors of a number of our large Group policyholders calling attention to our weight control program. Our material on weight control suitable for professional use and for distribution to employees was described. Requests were received from many of these physicians for booklets to distribute to employees.

### Publications

The following Industrial Health Booklets were completely revised and reprinted during the year:

First Aid Service for Small Plants.

First Aid for All Injuries.

Methods of Testing and Protecting Eyesight in Industry.

Physical Examinations in Industry.

Partial revisions were made in the following:

Health Protection in Welding

Prevention of Oil Pimples

The Industrial Health Section assisted in revising the following Health and Welfare publications:

First Aid

Tuberculosis

In addition, a number of manuscripts were reviewed and constructive criticisms offered, i.e.

Manuscript for advertisement on first aid.

Vacation booklet published by the National Safety Council.

Script for industrial nursing film.

April 1951 issue of Health Bulletin for Teachers on "Progress in Medical Science and Public Health."

Article entitled "Horse Sense for the Dog Days" by Arthur Gerard.

Monograph on occupational disease for the Historical Division of the Army Medical Library.

Wrote book review for American Review of Tuberculosis on "Pneumoconiosis" by Dr. Arthur Vorwald.

As a member of the Committee for Revision of Minimum Requirements for Comfort Air Conditioning, Dr. McConnell made suggestions to Walter L. Fleisher, Chairman, on suggested changes in the code.

Dr. McConnell wrote an article on "Colds, Disturbances Due to" for publication in the fourth edition of Current Therapy published by W. B. Saunders Co.

Dr. McConnell revised his sections on Diseases Due to Physical Agents and Diseases Due to Chemical Agents of the 1951 edition of Cecil's Textbook of Medicine. Two new sections were added, i.e. Beryllium and Carbon Tetrachloride.

#### Meetings and Conferences

The members of the Industrial Health Section attended 19 meetings and conferences. Addresses were made at a number of these.

Dr. McConnell gave a talk on the Control of Dust Problems in Industry at the Post Graduate Course in Diseases of the Chest given by the American College of Chest Physicians.

A luncheon meeting for the Medical Directors of our larger Group policy-holders in the Greater New York Area and an afternoon meeting of nurses engaged in industry were held in the Memorial Hall in the New Unit of the Home Office. At these meetings, the weight control film, "Losing to Win," was shown, followed by a discussion of the importance of nutrition education in an employee health program and how the Company's educational material could be utilized.

Dr. McConnell gave a talk on "Medical Programs in the Glass and Ceramic Industry and Small Plant Progress" at the Glass and Ceramics Section of the National Safety Congress in Chicago.

Dr. McConnell attended a meeting of the American Society for Heating and Ventilating Engineers and discussed a paper on the physiological reactions to air conditioning written by Mr. Leopold.

While attending the annual meeting of the Industrial Medical Association, Dr. McConnell met with the New York State Department of Labor Committee on Maximum Concentrations and a report on the revision of Rule 34, Control of Silica Dust in Stone Crushing Operations was completed.

#### Appointments

Dr. McConnell was appointed Part-time Consultant to the Division of Health Services and Special Weapons of the Federal Civil Defense Administration. He will visit plants that manufacture special weapons and give advice regarding the protection of workers in industries preparing such materials.

He was also appointed to the Decontamination Service of the Civilian Defense Medical Services, Emergency committee of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company.

#### Literature

Fifty-one thousand one hundred and nine (51,109) copies of our health publications, both general and industrial were sent on request.

Every month a list of the names of non-policyholder industrial firms requesting literature is sent to the Group Sales Research Section for follow-up.

#### Testimonials

Attached are a few copies of the many letters received expressing thanks for the materials sent and the services rendered.