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43

INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE DIGEST

Literature Abstracts

- MEDICAL
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Industrial Health News

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INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE FOUNDATION

FOUNDATION FACTS

Foundation Facts is a monthly news-letter issued to industrial concerns holding membership in Industrial Hygiene Foundation. The Foundation is a combined research and service institution to protect the health of workers in industry.

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H. B. Meller

Dr. H. B. Meller, formerly managing director of Industrial Hygiene Foundation and a world authority on air pollution and smoke prevention, died in a Pittsburgh hospital on Sunday evening, June 27. He was 65 years old. Burial was made at Altoona, Pa., on July 1.

Formerly Dean of the School of Mines at the University of Pittsburgh, Dr. Meller had headed Mellon Institute's air pollution investigation since 1923. He became managing director of Industrial Hygiene Foundation when the organization was formed in 1935 and directed the Foundation until last September when failing health forced him to relinquish active management. He had continued as a Consultant. His direction accounted in a large measure to the upbuilding of the Foundation during its formative years.

Through his work at Mellon Institute for two decades, Dr. Meller became known internationally as a specialist on air pollution. Also, through those efforts, Pittsburgh adopted an anti-smoke ordinance which became a model for other cities throughout the country. He headed Pittsburgh's Bureau of Smoke Regulation from 1920 to 1938.

As an indication of his contribution to air hygiene, and at a time when the field was little known, Dr. Meller published some 30 articles and was senior author of a dozen other articles written with associates. These were exclusive of the scores of papers which he presented before distinguished groups through the years, including such organizations as the New York Academy of Medicine, the Franklin Institute, the American Chemical Society, the American Public Health Association and the National Safety Council.

Born in Altoona, Dr. Meller first went to work for the Pennsylvania Railroad Company as a clerk. In 1900 he became clerk and later secretary of the faculty of the Department of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania. After attending the University and the Michigan College of Mines he joined the University of Pittsburgh faculty as an instructor in 1910. He became Dean of the School of Mines in 1914 and held that position until 1923 when he came to Mellon Institute.

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INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE DIGEST
Literature and News

News Items

642 Hydrogen From Water At Fires.
Bulletin 166 by the Committee on Fire Prevention and Engineering Standards of the National Board of Fire Underwriters discusses the formation of hydrogen from water decomposition by fires. The danger of hydrogen accumulating is theoretical. The gas burns as fast as it is formed. The almost instantaneous liberation of a large volume of steam has often been mistaken for a hydrogen gas explosion.

643 Safety Equipment.
The March issue of National Safety News is devoted entirely to safety equipment. Several signed articles of a general nature are followed by brief anonymous discussions of various mechanical and hygienic safety features, classified in the following general sections: (1) personal protection; (2) mechanical equipment; (3) fire and plant protection; (4) first aid and medical service; (5) sanitary equipment and supplies, and (6) miscellaneous services and problems. The subsections on "Respiratory Protective Equipment" under the first heading, and "Industrial Ventilation" under the second, were given brief notices in the June Digest, and Sections 4 and 5 are briefly abstracted in this number. The entire issue, however, is worth reading for a summary of a complete safety plan.

644 Flammable or Inflammable?
There has always been a certain amount of confusion when gasoline or other solvents are referred to as inflammable materials. When we refer to a substance as being incombustible, we mean that it will not easily burn, whereas, custom has established the use of the word "inflammable" to mean something that could easily be ignited. In Webster's Dictionary, the words "inflammable" and "flammable" are defined as follows: Inflammable - capable of being easily set on fire; easily enkindled; combustible. Flammable - capable of being easily ignited; inflammable. In order to clarify this terminology, the National Fire Protection Association has recommended that we eliminate the use of the word "inflammable." They recommend that the word FLAMMABLE be used to indicate ready combustibility and NON-FLAMMABLE for materials which are not easily ignited or set on fire. It is rather difficult to change our habits, but in the future we should refer to materials as being either FLAMMABLE or NON-FLAMMABLE to assist in establishing a proper understanding of the characteristics of certain materials. -- E.C. Barnes, Safety News, Westinghouse Electric & Manufacturing Company.

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