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REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE INDUSTRIAL
CLINIC, MONTREAL GENERAL HOSPITAL, FOR THE
YEAR SEPTEMBER 1, 1928, to AUGUST 31, 1929.

CLINICAL

(A) The investigation of occupational diseases among the Out Patients of the Hospital has progressed this year in the same manner as the previous year. The number of cases for investigation does not appear to be increasing, and I am of the opinion that this aspect of the work, while valuable from a research standpoint, is less important than some of the other activities of the Clinic. Actually there were 523 cases referred to the Industrial Clinic during the period. Among these were 30 cases of active Lead Poisoning, 3 cases of chronic arsenic poisoning. Three cases of carbon monoxide poisoning were seen in the Hospital wards, but these were not Industrial cases.

(B) The examination of Food Handlers referred to the Hospital for certificates has been continued. Actually there have been 275 of these examined.

(C) 383 Industrial accident cases were questioned with regard to the causation. The figures for this study are in the process of compilation, and cannot be given. The difficulties of a study of this type from hospital records becomes apparent as soon as it is undertaken, for one has no assurance that all accident cases of a given company come to the Hospital for treatment.

FIELD ACTIVITIES.

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(A) The Plant Medical Departments which were established in the first year of the operation of this Clinic have continued satisfactorily, and have handled a tremendous volume of work. In the year under review 1295 physical examinations have been performed, 1702 treatments given, 5914 sickness treatments and 947 nursing treatments. These statistical statements only describe the work of the Plant Medical Departments in part. I believe there is general approval on the part of the various plant managers in the Montreal area of the Plant Medical Departments. A number of firms have been approached in regard to the formation of Medical Departments, but only 2 have done so. Both these firms have engaged physicians recommended by the Industrial Clinic, and are operating along the general lines recommended by the Clinic. During the year one large steel company established a Health Service with a full time physician in charge. The Industrial Clinic was consulted in regard to the organization of this, and actually conducted the service for six weeks during the absence of the physician on account of sickness. Another large plant manufacturing company established a Health Service, stimulated I believe by this Clinic, but the Clinic was not consulted as to its organization.

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(B) The idea of co-operative Health Service to small plants, which was sponsored by the Canadian Manufacturers Association, has made no progress this year.

(C) There have been several calls for investigation of plant conditions. A fairly extensive study was made in one bronze foundry. A number of air analyses for lead were carried through. The results of these studies form the basis of a paper to be read at the annual meeting of the American Public Health Association this fall. A study of the carbon monoxide hazard in a large garage was commenced last winter, but was discontinued for lack of apparatus. The purchase of suitable apparatus is contemplated and it is hoped to continue this study during the coming year.

EDUCATIONAL.

(A) Lectures in Industrial Hygiene have been given to the third year students, the students in architecture, the School of Graduate Nurses, the School of Social Work and the pupil nurses of the Montreal General Hospital.

(B) A special course of 12 lectures with field visits was given to the Public Health Nurses in the School of Graduate Nurses.

(C) 6 Popular lectures have been delivered at various clubs and societies in Montreal, and one in Toronto.

MISCELLANEOUS.

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(A) An Industrial Dental Clinic was opened in December 1928. The Clinic is self-supporting so far as running expenses are concerned, but the Hospital donates the use of the space without charge for rent, light, heat and laundry. At this Clinic 182 cases have been treated. There has been a total of 785 treatments given. In the organization of this Clinic two firms donated \$350.00 to purchase the necessary equipment. A total of \$1720.46 has been received for the Industrial Dental Clinic, of which the sum of \$1451.00 has been paid for salaries and supplies, leaving a balance of \$269.46. We acknowledge here with thanks the services of the various dentists who have spent their time at this Clinic with reasonable remuneration, and to the nurses, who voluntarily gave their time to assisting the dentists.

(B) The staff of the Clinic assisted in the production of the periodic Health Examination Film of the Canadian Medical Association. This occupied a very considerable amount of time, but was considered well worth the time spent.

(C) The Industrial Medical Association of the Province of Quebec conducted a successful year. A union of the French and English Associations took place, and this united Association in collaboration with other organizations was able to render considerable service to the Workmen's Compensation Commission of the

Province of Quebec in the extensive revision of their Tariff. Several general meetings were held during the year, and a very successful dinner meeting at the annual meeting of the Canadian Medical Association.

(D) An effort has been made to obtain permission to study the effect of asbestos fibre on the health of workers. Two large companies were approached in this regard. The first one, possibly on account of financial difficulties, was unwilling to sponsor such a study. The second has decided to undertake an investigation for itself with our assistance and advice. It is to be hoped that information of scientific value will be forthcoming from this.

(E) The director of the Industrial Clinic attended 4 conventions during the year under review.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) Frank G. Pedley,

The Industrial Clinic.

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REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE INDUSTRIAL
CLINIC, MONTREAL GENERAL HOSPITAL, FOR THE
YEAR SEPTEMBER 1, 1929 to AUGUST 31, 1930.

CLINICAL

The clinical work in the Hospital as distinguished from that done in the field has continued as in the past, and an additional duty has been assumed, namely the supervision of the health of the Hospital employees. This was undertaken as a service to the Hospital, and has little value from the University standpoint.

The new activity calls for an examination of all new employees of the Hospital, and requires that all cases of illness among the Hospital employees be reported to the Industrial Clinic. During the year 80 pre-employment examinations and 38 periodic re-examinations were performed. 410 sick employees of the Hospital were seen and followed until the termination of their illness. This system, as it operates at present, is not entirely satisfactory on account of the number of departments which engage their own personnel, and a considerable number of new employees are being engaged with no examination. However, it is hoped that as the value of this examination becomes appreciated all departments will take advantage of it.

The study of occupational diseases among the Out-patients of the Hospital continues. Some results of this work are now appearing. One concern, which formerly contributed a large number of cases of lead poisoning to this Clinic, has established a new factory, partly on account of the severe lead hazard which existed in the old plant, and another firm has installed a fume removal system which should reduce the hazard very considerably. 22 cases of active lead poisoning were treated and investigated. Two of these were of special interest, and have been written up for report, one in the Journal of Industrial Hygiene and the other before the Montreal Medico-Chirurgical Association. Rheumatism was one of the principal diseases seen, although several cases of occupational skin diseases were investigated. In this connection an arrangement was made between one manufacturer and the Skin Department of this Hospital to undertake an investigation of a dermatitis caused by a certain lotion of his. This investigation was carried through to a very satisfactory conclusion by the Skin Department.

It may be stated here that the legal aspect of occupational diseases is in a very unsatisfactory condition in this Province, since no provision is made for compensation through the Workmen's Compensation Act. This matter was brought to the attention of the Province of Quebec Safety League, and a committee was formed to investigate it, but so far, unfortunately, this committee has been very inactive.

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The Industrial Dental Clinic has had a very satisfactory year. Its clientele increased, and consequently an increase of staff was necessary. 268 new patients were treated and 984 treatments given. I believe this Clinic is of real value to the community. Industrial workers can get good dental service at a low cost, and since the Clinic is operated at night, they need not lose time from their work. The financial status of the Industrial Dental Clinic is satisfactory, the fees from the patients being sufficient to pay the operating cost.

FIELD ACTIVITIES.

The plant Medical Departments have continued to carry on their work, and have given general satisfaction so far as can be determined. It is our practice to send to each plant manager a monthly report covering the activities of his Medical Department, and indicating the state of health of his employees. Frequently suggestions are made as to improvements in his plant from the standpoint of health. These suggestions are always gladly received, and usually followed. In these Medical Departments 1056 physical examinations were made during the past year, 15,605 surgical treatments and 6336 sickness treatments were given, and 889 nursing visits made to the homes of the employees.

A number of firms have been approached in regard to establishing medical departments, but no success has attended our efforts this year. I believe there is no doubt that the services already established have given satisfaction, but the idea has not sold itself, and we have had very few unsolicited requests for information and advice about the organization of medical services. It is possible that the general industrial depression has been responsible for this.

Four new activities were proposed during the year:

(1) A study of asbestos workers.

(2) A study of a large group of workers by X-ray to determine the incidence of tuberculosis.

(3) A study of psychological tests for automobile drivers with the view to decreasing accidents.

(4) The organization of an Occupational Therapy Workshop and an Industrial Workshop for handicapped individuals.

(1) The asbestos study is nearing completion. 102 individuals were examined clinically and by X-ray at the plant of the Canadian Johns-Manville Co. in Asbestos, P.Q. in July 1930. Other groups were examined at Thetford Mines in September 1930, but these do not come within the purview of this report. This study is being carried on with the co-operation

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of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., and it is expected that valuable information on the subject of asbestosis will be forthcoming. It is hoped that permission to publish the results will be obtained.

(2) The Tuberculosis Survey will probably be commenced during the coming year in co-operation with the Canadian Tuberculosis Association, the Sun Life Insurance Co. and other bodies. Since tuberculosis is such an important disease in the Province of Quebec, particularly among industrial workers, it is expected that results of real value will accrue from this study.

(3) The psychological study of automobile drivers was discussed in committee and then proposed to the Insurance Casualty Underwriters Association, but they did not show sufficient interest to warrant continuing the matter.

(4) The organization of the Occupational Therapy and the Industrial Workshops for handicapped individuals is still mooted, and will, it is hoped, be accomplished in the future. In that connection the Director of the Industrial Clinic has served as President of the Association of Occupational Therapy and has visited a number of workshops in other cities to acquaint himself with their organization and operation.

EDUCATIONAL.

Lectures have been given at the University in the Faculty of Medicine, the School of Social Work, the School of Graduate Nurses and the Department of Architecture.

Several addresses have been given to clubs and societies in Montreal and elsewhere.

A paper, "Lead Poisoning in Brass and Bronze Industries" was read before the Industrial Hygiene Section of the American Public Health Association at its Annual Meeting in Minneapolis in October 1929.

A paper, "The Incidence of Occupational Deafness and its Prevention", was read before the 11th Annual Meeting of the American Association of Organizations for the Deaf in New York in June 1930.

Through the Province of Quebec Safety League and the Montreal Council of Social Agencies representation was made to the Provincial Department of Public Works and Labour on behalf of handicapped workmen who are discriminated against by the Workmen's Compensation Act. In this connection the Director of the Industrial Clinic was asked to read a paper before the International Association of Industrial Accidents Board and Commissions at its Annual Meeting in Wilmington, Del. in Sept. 1930.

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The Director of the Industrial Clinic served as Chairman of the Industrial and Economic Section of the 2nd Canadian Conference of Social Work held in Toronto in May 1930.

The Industrial Medical Association of the Province of Quebec has held five regular meetings during the year. The attendance at these meetings has been between 20 and 35. The members regularly attending the meetings appear to enjoy them, and I believe the organization of this Association has been well worth while. It plans during the coming year to send lecturers to different parts of the Province and so extend the influence of the Association more widely.

The Director of the Industrial Clinic attended six national or international meetings during the year as follows: The Annual Meeting of the National Safety Council, the Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association, the Second Canadian Conference of Social Work, the American Association of Organizations for the Hard of Hearing and two meetings of the Conference Board of Physicians in Industry.

In resigning the position of Director of the Industrial Clinic I wish to say that it is my belief that the Industrial Clinic should be continued along the lines already established. Although numerically the number of cases seen and treated is not large, the location of the Clinic and its activities have served the useful purpose of gaining contact with industry, and it seems likely that as time goes on the field of usefulness of the Clinic will be enlarged.

It was my hope at first that more use could be made of the clinical material passing through the Compensation Clinic, but so far no method has been found to handle this material in a useful way. A study was carried on last year of the accident cases of several large firms, but since these firms did not send all their cases to the Clinic a proper statistical background could not be determined and the result of the study were of no value.

It is my belief that the present change in personnel affords an opportunity for the re-organization of the Industrial Hygiene Service. There is need in this part of the country for a well trained chemist in the field of Industrial Hygiene, and it is my belief that one should be engaged. The space is available in the Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, and many problems await a man qualified in this field. At the present time Industrial Hygiene activities at McGill University are severely hampered by the absence of skilled assistance in chemistry.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) Frank G. Pedley,

The Industrial Clinic.

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE

McGILL UNIVERSITY

MONTREAL,

October 11, 1932.

N.L. Burnette, Esq.,
Metropolitan Life Insurance Co.,
Ottawa, Ont.

Dear Mr. Burnette:

You have asked me to let you have a statement regarding industrial hygiene at McGill in time for the American Public Health Association meeting this month.

As you know, I came to Montreal in August, 1927 to take charge of the industrial hygiene work at McGill. The first activity was the creation of the Industrial Clinic at the Montreal General Hospital. It was thought at the time that the best point of contact with industry was through a clinic to which cases of occupational disease might be sent for investigation and treatment. A considerable number of such cases were directed to the Clinic, particularly cases of lead poisoning, and contact was made with the industries from which they came. One plant with an exceptionally severe lead hazard actually erected a new building, partly, I believe, on our recommendation, and several plants have improved their working conditions, by installing various ventilating devices to carry away poisonous dusts and fumes. Several papers have been published on the subject of lead poisoning, copies of which are enclosed.

The occupational poisoning work has been considered a less important activity than others, particularly on account of the fact that the number of cases of occupational poisoning is small compared with other diseases which affect industrial workers. All evidence points to the fact that industrial workers suffer in the main from the same diseases which affect the general population, and that preventive medicine for industrial workers should be directed towards those diseases and not especially towards the so-called occupational diseases. For this reason, it was thought that a valuable service could be rendered industry in particular, and the community in general, if industrial health services could be established in the larger industries, so that the health of the workers could be brought under the immediate supervision of a doctor and a nurse.

A good deal of time was devoted to making contact with industries which, it was thought, would be interested in a scheme of this nature. Considerable success was achieved at first and five plants created health departments immediately under our supervision, while four or five other concerns were stimulated to establish medical departments. These medical departments have all given satisfaction and are still operating, but the industrial depression during the last three years has made progress in this work very difficult.

Industrial Dental Clinic

In connection with the work of the industrial health services,

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an industrial dental clinic was established, the activities of which are recorded in an attached re-print. This clinic has financed itself entirely and is having a certain amount of difficulty now in making both ends meet.

Industrial Medical Association of the Province of Quebec

As an outcome of the industrial hygiene work, the Industrial Medical Association, P.Q., was established in 1928. This is a bilingual Association which carries on independent activities, and is also considered a branch of the Province of Quebec Medical Association. Doctors, Pennoyer, Mercier, St. Jaques, and Teas, have been the successive presidents, and Dr. Ward and I have served as secretary. The organization took an active part at the request of the Workmen's Compensation Commission, in drafting the tariff of the 1928 Workmen's Compensation Law, and has held meetings approximately bi-monthly since its organization.

Montreal Health Survey

The Industrial Hygiene Department co-operated with the Montreal Health Survey Committee and prepared the industrial hygiene section of the report.

Study of Asbestosis

In co-operation with the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, a survey of two companies mining and milling asbestos, was made in July and September, 1930. Physical examination of some 150 men was made, together with chest X-rays, and an interesting state of affairs was disclosed, which was reported to Dr. M.J. Lanza of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, but to date permission has not been secured to publish the results of the study. ?

Lectures at McGill

Courses of lectures on industrial hygiene have been given every year to the third year medical students and graduate nurses, social workers and architects. ✓

General Publicity

A number of public addresses have been given on the subject of industrial hygiene. Various papers have been prepared for publication or presentation at scientific meetings, most of which are enclosed.

I have been submitting reviews and editorials to the Canadian Medical Association Journal, and have also acted as joint editor with Dr. Cunningham of the Industrial Hygiene Section of the Canadian Public Health Association Journal.

A representation favouring the creation of Division of Industrial Hygiene in the Provincial Health Department, has been made to the Social Insurance Commission and the Province of Quebec, and this Commission has recommended such a Division to the Provincial Government.

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Present Activities

The Industrial Clinic has been moved to the University under the immediate direction of Dr. Vance Ward. The supervision of the plant medical departments continues, and in addition, two new activities have been started and are now in operation: (1) a study of mercury poisoning and (2) an industrial health survey;

- (1) Our attention was drawn a year or so ago to the mercury hazard in one of the plants outside the City, and also to the fact that a relatively small amount of experimental work had been done on industrial mercury poisoning. The co-operation of the Department of Pharmacology at McGill was obtained and an experimental study with dogs is now in progress to ascertain the minimum permissible concentration of mercury in air. It is anticipated that a publication of this study will shortly be ready. This study is being financed entirely from the Industrial Hygiene funds. (Incl. Party in study. 4 pages 500 per A)
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- (2) In co-operation with the Canadian Tuberculosis Association, the Provincial Health Department, and the Department of Industrial Hygiene at McGill, a study has been started with particular reference to tuberculosis in industrial workers, but also with reference to general health. Some 2,000 workers in three companies have already received a complete physical examination, with chest X-rays, and it is hoped to continue this survey so as to include 5,000 employees in different occupations. This survey has been under way for a year, and is being financed, partly by the Provincial Health Department, partly by the industries concerned, and partly by ourselves.

The \$25,000 promised by the Metropolitan Life Insurance has all been paid, and some \$4,000 is left to carry on the work. We are in hopes that the mercury study can be completed within this appropriation, but it will not be possible to finish the industrial health survey unless additional funds are forthcoming.

An activity which we have been endeavouring to establish for some years, is a co-operative health service to plants too small to provide a complete service of their own. An endeavour was made to get this service under way, financed by the companies themselves, but various difficulties presented, chief of which was the scepticism of the employers of its practicability. Since this scheme has been successful in Philadelphia and Hudson County, New Jersey, it seems likely that when better times return, if a demonstration were made perhaps in co-operation with the Royal Edward Institute, employers might be convinced of the desirability of such a scheme. We feel this would be of value to the community in general, and to the industries affected in particular, and might be of actual economic value to your own company.

These are the main facts in connection with the industrial hygiene work at McGill University.

Yours very truly,

Frank C. Pedley

Frank G. Podley, M.D.
Assistant Professor, Industrial Hygiene.

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