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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE

REPORT OF ENGINEERING STUDY OF ASBESTOS HAZARD

U. S. Asbestos Division
Raybestos-Manhattan Incorporated
Nanheim, Pennsylvania

At the request of Mr. John M. Hewkes, Chief of the Industrial Health and Safety Section of the War Production Board, a survey was conducted in the plant of the U.S. Asbestos Division of the Raybestos Incorporated to determine the extent of the asbestos hazard present. The survey was made during November, 1944 by members of the personnel of the Philadelphia District Laboratory, Bureau of Industrial Hygiene.

The plant is engaged in the manufacture of asbestos cloth and tape and the operations of carding, weaving, twisting, etc. are all typical of the industry.

Sampling methods

Samples for the determination of dust concentrations were collected with a Greenburg-Smith impinger, using 25 per cent alcohol solution as the collecting medium. Dust counts were made by the light field technique.

Discussion

The accompanying table shows the concentration of asbestos dust at various locations in the plant. To arrive at those concentrations it has been assumed that the dust created by an operation is approximately the same composition as that of the parent material. The total dust concentrations have been converted to asbestos dust concentrations by multiplying them by the percentage of asbestos present in the parent material.

When the results are compared with the toxic limit for asbestos dust of 5 million particles per cubic foot of air, as suggested by the United States Public Health Service, the conclusion can be made that the hazard in this plant at the time of sampling is en-

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tirely negative. The concentrations may vary from time to time, but it is believed that with the protective measures taken by the company they will never greatly exceed the limit.

This company is well aware of the hazardous nature of the dust and has taken remarkable measures for the correction of dusty operations. They are continually improving upon the present exhaust system and keep the plant in a very clean condition. No recommendations can be made for this plant since the results of the dust survey indicate that the company has done everything possible.