

taining relatively few particles, make their way into the lymphatic system and accumulate in the lymph nodes. In sufficient concentration, or perhaps because they are mixed with small amounts of silica, they set up a low grade, non-progressive chronic inflammation. But this reaction results only in a little thickening in the lymph nodes and about the lymphatic vessels. The lung tissue may be variously pigmented, black from coal or red from iron, but there is no formation of scar tissue that interferes with function. The susceptibility to tuberculosis of the person with such pigmentation is not increased but it is apparently quite definite that pneumonia is unduly prevalent in coal miners and that chronic bronchitis results from the inhalation of cement. The X-ray films of men working in non-siliceous dusts shows either nothing at all or a more or less marked accentuation of the linear shadows cast by the blood vessels. This, of course, is due to the chronic inflammatory changes about the lymphatic trunks in walls of blood vessels.

The effects of mixtures of free silica and non-siliceous materials are less clearly defined and should receive more serious attention. It would seem unwise to assume, as has been done in the past, that the non-siliceous substances serve only as inert diluents and that only the quartz component of a dust is of significance. Experimental and clinical data are accumulating which suggest that at least some other dusts may materially modify the action of quartz, both in its capacity to produce nodular fibrosis in the lungs and to increase the susceptibility to tuberculosis. For example, animals inhaling heavy concentrations of a mixture of equal parts of pure silica and hematite dust for eight hours a day over a period of 14 months have shown not even the slightest indication of nodule formation in the lung, whereas pure quartz dust, inhaled for only two hours a day, produces definite nodulation. It also seems to be true that animals inhaling such a mixture are much less susceptible to tuberculosis than those exposed to pure quartz. In the case of the human iron miner, some lungs show definite silicotic nodulation, others only a very few nodules and many no nodules at all. All exhibit heavy deposits of iron particles with a cellular connective tissue reaction. When these findings can be correlated with chemical analysis of the lung tissues and the approximate amount of rock work which these miners have performed, some relationship between the exposure to silica and the fibrous nodule formation may be established. Tuberculosis in these iron miners is apparently less prevalent and much less severe than in men exposed to pure silica. What has been said of iron miners is also probably true of foundry workers and coal miners. It is generally accepted that men in the latter occupation have less tuberculosis than the average for the age period; Cummins believes that they have the infection but that it is so atypical and benign in its manifestations that it escapes diagnosis.

Mention should also be made of mixed dusts like certain slates and granite containing large amounts of free silica in combination with silicates. Experimentally these substances behave atypically and do not produce nodular fibrosis unless there is complicating infection. The same may also be true in human beings. Unquestionably such dusts are capable of producing typical silicotic nodules and they predispose to tuberculosis. From a theoretical standpoint they should receive much more intensive study to clarify our views on the whole subject. At the present time it appears that the action of their quartz component is modified and partially neutralized by the other substances which they contain.

Using Exhaust Systems and Respiratory Equipment To Protect Workers Exposed to Dust

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The speaker said in part: A number of our states have had references to dust elimination in their labor laws for a good many years, but no state has as yet thoroughly enforced these laws. The codes of five states which we investigated provide that grinding, buffing and polishing wheels should be exhausted, although two of the states exempt from these provisions wheels on which water is used.

This seems ill-advised, since a study of wet and dry grinding in Connecticut by Winslow and Greenburg has shown that the application of water does not by any means eliminate the dust hazard.

It may be remarked that, with everything else equal, a high static suction will give a higher velocity at the point of origin of the dust, fume or gas than a low one; but this alone is not a measure of the effectiveness of any exhaust system. Wisconsin has adopted the principle of specifying a limit to the number of dust particles of respirable size per cubic foot of air. After all, this is what we are primarily interested in, to keep the dust contamination down to a point where it will not be harmful.

These variations and conflicting provisions in state codes merely reflect the general lack of authoritative standards. It is accordingly fortunate that definite steps are now being taken by the American Standards Association to develop the proper basis for such codes. There are two committees working on this problem: the Ventilation Code Committee, sponsored by the American Society of Heating & Ventilating Engineers, and the Exhaust Code Committee, sponsored by the International Association of Industrial Accident Boards and Commissions. It is also arranged to appoint sub-committees to take up five specific subjects: Abrasive cleaning, chromium plating, granite cutting, rock drilling, and spray coating. In addition, a Sub-Committee on Fundamental Principles of Design and Operation and Maintenance of Exhaust Systems will be appointed.

The two most important considerations in an effective exhaust system are: 1. Velocity of air flow; 2. Arrangement of the inlets (from the standpoint of nearness to the dust source, shape, etc.).

Many an installation that is otherwise all right fails to remove the dust successfully merely because there is not enough air being drawn through the system. In a series of tests that were conducted under actual working conditions by Theodore F. Hatch, Department of Industrial Hygiene, Harvard School of Public Health, a machine used in dressing stone was employed, and it was noted that with an air flow through the hood of 230 cubic feet per minute, there were over one hundred million dust particles in the surrounding air. When the air flow was increased to a little over 250 cubic feet per minute, the dust concentration had dropped to forty million, a marked improvement. As the air flow was further increased, the drop in dust concentration was relatively slower, and it took a volume of about 380 cubic feet per minute to bring the dust concentration down to ten or fifteen million particles per cubic foot, which was considered reasonably safe for this type of dust.

It is accordingly possible sometimes to take an installation that is not satisfactory and, if the remainder of the system is well designed, by merely speeding up the blower or adding a larger one, to bring about the desired results.

Another very important consideration is to get the inlets of the exhaust system as close as possible to the source of the dust. The drop in efficiency as we get further away from the inlet is really surprising to one who has not studied the principles involved. It should be remembered that if we have the open end of an exhaust pipe or air duct in operation, the air tends to flow in from all sides, even from behind the opening. As we move away from the end of the pipe, the velocity drops very rapidly, so that even at a distance of five inches from the hood the velocity may be less than 10 per cent of that right at the hood inlet. This is the most important consideration to keep in mind and one which is frequently lost sight of in designing exhaust systems. It is not uncommon to see an exhaust inlet a few inches in diameter with which the person making the installation hoped to draw dust from a distance of several feet, but the air flow even a foot or two away from the entrance to the inlet may be negligible.

Still another important consideration having to do with the design of the inlet is the addition of a flange. The effect of this flange is to cut down the air that would flow in from behind the opening, thus drawing it nearly all from the front. Thus the efficiency of the system is substantially increased and the scope of the exhaust extended appreciably, without increasing the power consumption or otherwise adding to the expense of keeping up the system.

There are also other considerations of perhaps lesser importance. For example, air cannot be "pulled" from a distance by merely directing an exhaust pipe toward the point in question, but it can be "pushed" or blown, directionally, for a consider-