

January 28, 1941

Memorandum on Baton Rouge Visit

General housekeeping and conditions in the plant were very good. Little odor was perceptible except within one or two of the still enclosures, and our general impression was that it has been some time since things have been kept up as well as they now are.

Construction and improvements in the Alloy are now being actively carried out. So much confusion and dust is associated with this, that it is not possible to tell by inspection whether much dust or fume are present in the air. In the week of January 19, one man suffered a mild burn of the conjunctiva and cornea of both eyes, as a consequence of a faulty sight glass catch on the casters. The type in use on that particular instrument was of the clamp type, similar to that used on glass top mason jars. For some reason or other this let go suddenly while he was adjusting it and a small amount of alloy was blown into his eye. Three days after the accident, the corneal opacity had cleared almost completely and there was no evidence that synechia would result. Apparently the powder was so fine that no serious burn resulted. All of the clamp-type sight glass holders will be removed and replaced with wing nut locks.

Meters for the sampling apparatus are not yet completely installed and in one instance in which the meter was in

KE 0003658

place, the connection was faulty. One sampler on A-2 was not operating, the others were in good shape and apparently functioning well.

An occasional hazard in the furnace is offered by the cleaning of the sludge dryer. This has to be done every few months, at which time the mechanical crew open the ports on the dryer and the operating crew (furnace) loosen the deposits and force them down into the dryer through which they are carried to the furnace. There is considerable odor at the time this work is going on and Mr. Fisher advised that regular work in the Furnace would be discontinued during the cleaning operation.

Construction is practically at an end and the work as it is now stabilized allows adequate time for the routine lead examinations.

Willard Machle, M. D.