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Industrial Health

Highlights in Industrial Medicine, Hygiene and Nursing
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Pneumoconiosis

The Problem of Consistent Radiologica Diagnosis in Coalminers' Pneumoconiosis. An Experimental Study by C. M. Fletcher and P. D. Oldham, the British Journal of Industrial Medicine 6:168-.33 (July, 1949).

In order to determine the accuracy with which cases of pneumoconiosis in coal miners were being classified by X-ray pictures a group of 102 films was selected to show five categories of the early stages of pneumoconiosis. These 102 films were then diagnosed on two occasions by ten different individuals who had varying experience with coalminers' pneumoconiosis and by two consulting radiologists. On the two occasions the films were presented to the observer in a different order and he was not told what diagnosis he had made on the previous occasion.

Perhaps the most remarkable feature of this experiment was the disagreement which it showed about the limits of normality. Fifty-six films were considered normal on at least one occasion and of these:

Five were considered to be in category 2 on at least one occasion.

Seventeen were considered in category 3 at least once.

Twenty-one were considered in category at least once.

Eleven were considered to be in category 5 at least once.

21 were considered in category 4 at least once and 11 were considered to be in category 5 at least once.

The number of films which were considered certifiable as having disabling pneumoconiosis on both occasions by the various observers ranged from 5 to 45. Two men from the Silicosis Medical Board certified respectively 34 and 53 of the films on one reading.

There was a great difference in classification depending on radiographic technique. Under-exposed films were generally considered to show more disease than over-exposed films of the same case taken the same day.

A preliminary trial with standard films for comparison purposes has indicated that it is possible for observers to obtain a much greater degree of agreement between themselves and consistency on successive occasions than that shown in unaided diagnosis of the films.

Ebasco Safety Awards Announced

Winners of the Ebasco Safety Award, presented annually to companies in the group that achieve an accident record at least 25 per cent better than the national average for the group were announced at the Annual Safety Luncheon, October 25.

Texas Power and Light Company, with an injury index 90.78 per cent below the national average for electric companies, and New Orleans Public Service, Inc. —electric and gas operations, with an injury index 87.24 per cent below national average, won top honors this year.

Other companies in the 25 per cent group include: Superior Water, Light and Power Company; Mississippi Power and Light Company; Birmingham Electric Company; United Gas Pipe Line Company; Columbus & Southern Ohio Electric Company; West Tennessee Gas Company, and the Transit Section of New Orleans Public Service, Inc.

Gold and silver plaques, designed by the internationally famous sculptor, Rene Chambellan, and achievement certificates will be presented to the presidents of these companies at Ebasco's annual presidents' meeting to be held in New York, December 5.

McFadden Heads ASSE

E. C. McFadden, vice-presi... and manager, Enginering De... ment, Texas Employers Insura... Association, Dallas, was elec... president of the American So... of Safety Engineers at the An...



E. C. McFadden

Meeting on October 25. Firs... vice-president is Dr. William E... Yant, research director, Mine... Safety Appliances Company, Pitt... burgh, and second vice-president... J. C. Stennett, director, Accident... and Fire Prevention Division... National Association of Mutual... Casualty Companies, Chicago... Ernest S. Beaumont, director of... safety, Peoples Gas Light and... Coke Company, Chicago, was re... elected treasurer, and A. D. Cad... dell continues as executive sec... retary.

Members of the executive com... mittee elected for three year terms... were:

Paul C. Lamb, chief safety en... gineer, Lever Bros. Company, ... Cambridge, Mass.

C. H. Weiser, plant personnel... supervisor, Southwestern Bell Tele... phone Company, Kansas City, Mo...

A. M. Green, personnel and... safety director, Oliver Tire and... Rubber Company, Oakland, Calif...

Capital and labor work for the... same reason—to be paid.

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT NSC-20