

FILE NAME: Pennsylvania (PA)

DATE: 1947 Aug

DOC#: PA013

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Excerpt - Industrial Hygiene Newsletter

treatment of seed grains was recently conducted by this Division. The materials causing the hazard are primarily organic mercury compounds which undergo decomposition relatively easily.

A study was made of twelve grain elevators in western Minnesota. Ten of the grain elevators were using "Ceresan" for the treatment of the grain while the other two were using both "Ceresan" and "Parson's Seed Saver." Atmospheric samples were collected in a midget impinger to which a filter paper was attached by a special arrangement to trap any solid particles. The collecting media used in the impinger was a 5 percent sodium hypochlorite solution. The sample in the impinger, together with the filter paper, was analyzed for mercury by the dithizone method. A total of 60 samples was analyzed with the following results: Mercury concentrations varied from 0.1 to 4.0 mg/m³. The average concentration of mercury in these samples was 0.4 mg/m³ which is four times the toxic limit. A more comprehensive investigation is being planned for next year.

Nurses—On April 17-19, the Division assisted in conducting a Continuation Study Course for Industrial Nurses held on the University of Minnesota campus. Seventy nurses from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Kansas, and Canada attended the 3-day course which consisted of a series of conferences with 10 different speakers. Mr. G. S. Michaelsen, the Division of Industrial Health's director, spoke on "Trends of Industrial Health." Miss G. Anderson, the Division's Industrial nurse, presided at all the sessions.

ST. LOUIS, MO.

OD Reporting—Considerable time has been given to that phase of our program intended to stimulate the reporting of occupational diseases by physicians of St. Louis. During the month letters were sent to the physicians engaged in industrial practice and to the general practitioners also as a follow-up of the new communicable disease code recently sent them. This letter directed their attention to that portion of the code dealing with the occupational diseases and transmitted to them several of our new occupational disease reporting cards. About 1,550 physicians were got in touch with in this way and

3,300 occupational disease cards distributed. The response from this effort has been encouraging in that since that time we have already received more occupational disease reports than we have during the past several years.

Talk to A. F. of L.—A talk was delivered by invitation to the semimonthly meeting of the business agents of the Central Trades and Labor Union, A. F. of L. Advantage was taken of this opportunity to acquaint these representatives of organized labor with the industrial hygiene services available to them in St. Louis and how they might utilize them.

OREGON

Nurses' Registry—During this month, three new nurses were visited, two of whom were replacements and the third from a newly established nursing service. This placement was made through the assistance of the Industrial Hygiene Division. There is a great need for an active and efficient registry to do this service. More interest seems to be shown among nurses in industrial nursing than in other fields of nursing. This was evident among the students in two public health nursing classes taught this month. The value of courses in industrial hygiene is being stressed, in order for the new graduate to compete with the number of nurses who have had industrial experience during the last few years.

Structure Study—A workshop on the structure study of existing nursing organizations was attended in order to be informed on the two proposed plans suggested in the American Nurses Association. Many occasions arise when interpretation is necessary on organization activities. The training of practical nurses in the State of Washington was discussed in detail by a League of Nursing Education Meeting.

Carbon Monoxide—A survey of the potential hazard of carbon monoxide from coal stoves and space heaters was made at the Guilds Lake Housing Project, following a near fatal poisoning of one family there. At a conference with the Portland Housing Authority on this matter, it was recommended that all such coal stoves be inspected, and chimneys, flues, and flue dampers on the stoves be examined for proper operation. It was also recommended

that residents of housing projects be informed as to the hazards of improper firing and control of coal stoves and instructed as to the proper methods of firing the stoves.

Visiting Nurses—A staff meeting was held with the Visiting Nurses Association staff on part-time nursing. Points covered were history of industrial nursing, initiating part-time service, preparation of staff and duties of the part-time industrial nurse. This conference is one of a series. At the present time, the Visiting Nurse Association is attempting to establish part-time nursing service in the city of Portland, with which effort we are actively cooperating. Throughout the United States, approximately 35 visiting nurse associations are rendering part-time service. This service is intended for plants that are not large enough to make a full-time nursing service practical and also as a means of demonstration to initiate a nursing service where one has never been established.

PENNSYLVANIA

Speech—A case-reading program for bettering the health of workers in Pennsylvania industrial plants was outlined by Dr. Joseph Shilen, Director of the Bureau of Industrial Hygiene, in an address before the Regional Industrial Hygiene Conference sponsored by the Bureau at the Mellon Institute in Pittsburgh on May 28-29.

"Many workers are suffering from diseases and physical disorders of which they are not aware," Dr. Shilen said, "and our aim will be to discover these so that the individual may obtain treatment from his personal physician. We will be concerned not only with diseases of occupational origin but also with other ailments prevalent among the adult population as a whole, such as heart disease, diabetes, kidney disorders, dental defects, etc. We will make extensive use of the X-ray and will urge that preemployment and periodic physical examinations of workers be made to detect early stages of diseases."

Asbestos—The Bureau is cooperating with the Asbestos Textiles Association by surveying all asbestos textile plants in the State of Pennsylvania. Particular emphasis is being placed on the appraisal of existing dust control measures.