

Meeting of Members, October 20, 1965

Mr. Davison next called on Dr. Robert T. P. deTreville for the Managing Director's report.

Dr. deTreville reported that the year 1965 had been a critical one for the Industrial Hygiene Foundation, and out of the experiences of the past year have been developed an improved communication of the Foundation's mission to its members, government (including the Internal Revenue Service which has recently audited the Foundation as a nonprofit research association), to universities, to private institutions, professional and technical associations, and lastly, but certainly not least in importance, to industrial associations and foundations.

From such improved communication has come increased interest on the part of the Foundation's membership in research programs in the Foundation's laboratory, in research and educational programs within the membership (a pilot plant for field studies), and in greater cooperation in research between the Foundation, universities, institutions, and other research agencies, including government.

As a result, there have been more concerted efforts during this period on the part of Foundation Trustees and other representatives of the Foundation's membership to raise funds for research and educational programs in a number of important areas. Examples of these programs are given in the Foundation's new membership information booklet, extra copies of which are available for purposes of helping extend membership in the Foundation.

Dr. deTreville indicated that he had requested that details of progress in several important areas be reported later in the meeting by Chairmen of Foundation Committees. He, therefore, limited his remarks to the following status report on the Foundation's Emphysema Research Program.

The Foundation's research laboratory was launched into emphysema research early in 1964 as a result of serendipitous observations made during an investigation of the effects of enzymes upon developing silicotic nodules. By injecting papain, an enzyme, directly into the trachea of rats it was possible to produce widespread emphysema of the lungs of the centrilobular and panlobular type associated with severe respiratory impairment in man. This destruction of functional lung tissue is produced rapidly with a high degree of reliability and reproducibility; and Dr. Paul Gross, Director of the Foundation's Research Laboratory, plans to use this new experimental technique as a laboratory model for the study of emphysema. In 1966-67, he will expose several animal species to severe industrial materials, subjecting them to extreme exposure conditions but without shortening the normal life span. Following this exposure, Dr. Gross will produce a measured amount of emphysema in these and in control animals to determine if the exposure had any observable effects in predisposing the animals to emphysematous lung destruction. Conversely, Dr. Gross expects to produce emphysematous animals initially and expose them to a variety of materials to determine in serial sacrificed animals, whether any observable aggravation will occur.