

Dr. Anthony J. Lanza retirement
Dec. 1947

Dr. Anthony J. Lanza, associate medical director of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, retires December 31st from his Metropolitan post after 23 years of association with the company. He is an outstanding leader in the field of industrial hygiene and a recognized authority on silicosis.

Upon his retirement he will assume full-time duties with the New York University-Bellevue Medical Center as chairman of the Institute of Industrial Medicine and professor of industrial medicine in the College of Medicine. For the past year his services have been loaned by the Metropolitan on a part-time basis to the medical center.

His career is marked by service in both World Wars. During World War I he served with distinction in the U.S. Public Health Service, and in World War II he had an outstanding record in the U.S. Army, attaining the rank of colonel in the Medical Corps, and receiving a high decoration.

Dr. Lanza was born in New York City on March 8, 1884, the son of Manfredi and Clara Hammond Lanza. He received his education in Washington, D. C., where he attended St. John's College and George Washington University, being graduated from the Medical School of the latter institution in 1906.

He entered the service of the Metropolitan in January 1926, as an assistant medical director. In conjunction with the late Dr. Wade Wright, he was in charge of the industrial health service of the company's policyholders service bureau. Later he was associated with the welfare division, of which he became executive in charge under Second Vice-President Donald B. Armstrong. Dr. Lanza was appointed associate medical director in February 1945.

During World War II, Dr. Lanza served for more than two and a half years

in the United States Army Medical Corps. His service covered the period from March 12, 1942, through December 1944, when he resumed his connection with the Metropolitan. Commissioned a lieutenant colonel less than three months after the Pearl Harbor attack, Dr. Lanza was later promoted to colonel. He was director of the occupational health division, preventive medicine service, office of the surgeon general. His office had entire charge of industrial hygiene and industrial medical service in all the plants owned and operated by the Army, including Ordnance plants, Chemical Warfare plants, air bases, and ports of embarkation. These Army-operated industrial plants employed at their peak about 900,000 civilians, of whom approximately 40 percent were women. In addition, the occupational health division was responsible for and maintained supervision over Army-owned contractor-operated industrial plants. The occupational health division also maintained the Army industrial hygiene laboratory which was located in the School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University, in Baltimore. This laboratory was under the direction of Colonel Raymond Hussey. The occupational health division was also responsible for the organization of the Armored Forces medical research laboratory at Fort Knox, which was under the direction of Colonel Willard Machie.

Dr. Lanza carried out his assignment with such sterling ability that he was awarded the Legion of Merit Medal, which was presented to him in April 1945. The citation accompanying the presentation of the award reads:

"For exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services from March 1942 to December 1944. Colonel Lanza contributed in a high degree to the development of the Army's present industrial health program for civilian workers in Army owned and operated industrial plants. He organized for the Surgeon General a special health service which protects the health of almost a million civilian workers in Army industrial plants, thus contributing to the

uninterrupted flow of munitions. To this task he brought a rich background of special knowledge and experience, which was applied with energy, intelligence, and wisdom. Largely due to his efforts, the present effective and well-organized program of industrial medicine has been developed, and he thus contributed in a high degree to the success of the Army's program of preventive medicine."

Dr. Lanza received the 1946 William S. Knudsen award for the most significant contribution to the field of industrial medicine. In making the award the American Association of Industrial Physicians and Surgeons said that Dr. Lanza was named because of the very large task which he handled so ably during the war in the surgeon general's office.

While in the public health service during World War I, Dr. Lanza reorganized the office of industrial hygiene, establishing ten branches in as many cities. He reached the grade of senior surgeon - lieutenant colonel. While in the public health service he had a year of hospital work, for two years was at the tuberculosis sanatorium at Fort Stanton, New Mexico. He was detailed for about five years to the United States Bureau of Mines as chief surgeon, organizing their medical service. He made many investigations in matters of ventilation and dust in metal mines, especially in regard to pulmonary dust diseases and tuberculosis. Resigning from the public health service, he became medical director of the Hydraulic Steel Company in Cleveland, Ohio. From there he went to Australia for the international health board of the Rockefeller Foundation, as adviser to the Commonwealth Government in inaugurating the division of industrial hygiene in the Federal Health Department of the Government. After his return in 1924, Dr. Lanza was the executive officer of the National Health Council until 1926.

Dr. Lanza is married, has two daughters, and lives at Scarborough, N. Y.

He is a member of the Cosmos Club of Washington, D. C., and of the Sleepy Hollow Country Club, Scarborough, New York. He is a member also of the following organizations: American Medical Association, American Public Health Association, Association of Industrial Physicians and Surgeons, and National Tuberculosis Association, New York Academy of Medicine.

He serves on the following directorates and committees:

Chairman, Council on Industrial Health, and member of Editorial Board, Occupational Medicine, American Medical Association;

Committee to Promote Educational Activities Among Medical Examiners, Association of Life Insurance Medical Directors;

Chairman, Industrial Medical Committee, and member Board of Trustees, Industrial Hygiene Foundation of America;

Chairman, Committee on Industrial Medicine, New York County Medical Society;

Board of Directors, New York Tuberculosis and Health Association;

Board of Trustees, Trudeau Sanatorium and Foundation;

Medical Advisory Committee, Health and Welfare Fund, United Mine Workers of America.

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