DISCUSSIONS (Mrs. Steele's Paper)

Dr. Hamlin opened the discussion on this paper and congratulated Mrs. Steele on a very excellent presentation. He recalled the early days when the nursing program was being organized and emphasized the progress made since 1941, as outlined in this review. The present program, he stated, has developed largely on the basis of experience and the need for better nursing service as demonstrated by day to day requirements of the various plant locations.

Physical examination forms, schedules for appointments with plant doctors and many of the things outlined in the Nurses Manual of Procedure have been worked out with this in mind. The various steps therefore, have not been adopted without due consideration. They are included because there is a definite purpose behind each one. Dr. Hamlin emphasized the fact that what might appear trivial or a nuisance to a nurse in the plant as far as her particular situation is concerned, is a matter of real concern to the Medical Department and the overall program.

The part played by occupational disease such as silicosis in creating the need for a Medical Department, was amplified as was the story of the Company Mobile Chest X-Ray Unit.

Dr. Hamlin also stressed the importance of making home visits as described by Mrs. Steele. He thought that this is one of the personal services which the industrial nurse performs that enhances the nursing program as well as Company policy and employee relations.

The nurses were told that they would hear the theme of "A Better Place to Work" repeated frequently during the sessions and that this might well be a good slogan for the entire conference.

Dr. Hamlin said in his closing remarks, "You will hear much about what you should and shouldn't do in the next three days. Here is your opportunity to 'fight back' if you feel like doing so. The purpose of the conference is not to lecture but rather to do whatever we can to assist you in the performance of your daily tasks. Remember, the Medical Department is designed to be of service to you so please use it!"

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