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OF THE

SURGEON GENERAL OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR

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AND SANITATION

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:AL HEALTH HAZARDS

er this heading have been contin-
general lines: (1) Studies of nat-
ıey relate to air conditioning, and

(2) the study of the practical efficiency of ventilating devices in the removal of dusts, gases, and fumes.

In the study of natural and artificial ventilation as they relate to air conditioning, little progress has been made during the year, due to the absence of the sanitary engineer assigned to the study.

In the last annual report reference was made to the installation of ventilating systems in the chambers of the House of Representatives and the United States Senate. With the completion of the installation of this system in the Senate Chambers, it was necessary to make a study of the operation of the system under both summer and winter conditions. The result of this investigation showed that the new system was capable of maintaining desired temperatures throughout the course of the whole day, that it was possible to regulate and maintain the desired moisture content of the air, that adequate air changes were taking place in the Chamber at all times, and that the air velocity on the Senate floor ranged from 5 to 54 feet per minute, and averaged 24 feet per minute.

Because of the differences in opinions as to the relative value of different systems of ventilation in providing adequate air conditioning, especially in schoolrooms, an attempt has been made to get an agreement as to the fundamentals relating to schoolroom ventilation. It is the feeling that such an agreement coming from the leading ventilating engineers of the country and having the indorsement of Government agencies and those societies interested in the subject of ventilation would be most helpful in securing a uniform air conditioning in the schools in the several States.

Investigations of the practical efficiency of ventilating devices used in the removal of hazardous substances such as dust, fumes, gases, and sprays.—The first paper in the series of these studies relates to the efficiency of dust-removal systems in granite-cutting plants.[8]

In a study of the health of workers in dusty trades[9] a detailed investigation was made of the average dust counts in millions of particles per cubic foot of air for various broad occupational groups. These findings were related to the health of the workers in the various groups. Using these related studies as a basis, it was possible to set down a tentative standard of dustiness for granite-cutting plants below which there seemed no indication that any serious health hazard would result. This tentative standard was set somewhere between 10,000,000 and 20,000,000 particles. In order to determine in actual practice whether or not it was possible to maintain such a limit of dustiness in granite plants in actual operation, a detailed study was conducted and the comparison of atmospheric dust conditions in plants without efficient local exhaust systems with plants with efficient local exhaust systems was made.

In addition to the study made under practical operating conditions, a further investigation was made of the proper maintenance and use of efficient systems under experimental conditions. As a result of this experimental study several things were indicated: (1) That dust determinations made at the breathing level of the operator

[8] A Study of the Efficiency of Dust-Removal Systems in Granite-Cutting Plants. By Asst. Chemical Engineer J. J. Bloomfield. Public Health Reports, Oct. 18, 1929. (Reprint No. 1324.)

[9] The Health of Workers in Dusty Trades. II. Exposure to Siliceous Dust (Granite Industry). A. E. Russell, R. H. Britten, L. R. Thompson, and J. J. Bloomfield. Public Health Bulletin No. 187.

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