ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE INDUSTRIAL HEALTH SECTION

1945

PLANT SURVEYS

The Laboratory of Industrial Hygiene conducted sixty surveys of health conditions in the plants of our Group policyholders. These consisted of surveys of new plants, as well as recheck surveys in plants of a number of our policyholders which request that we make these periodic checks to determine whether or not any new health hazards have developed and, if so, how they can be controlled. They also wanted to know if the fume and dust control systems installed on our recommendation are efficient.

The following instances of service may be of interest to show how the work of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company in the field of industrial hygiene is accepted by management, employees and the Divisions of Industrial Hygiene of the State Departments of Health:

The Bates Manufacturing Company of West Orange, N. J. requested a survey of health conditions in their plant because their grievance committee, consisting of representatives of management and labor, wanted such a survey made to use as a guide in improving conditions in the plant.

Mr. W. G. Hazard, Director of the Industrial Hygiene Division of the Department of Health of New Jersey was ordered by the War Production Board to make an investigation of the plant of the Johns-Manville Corporation at Manville on the basis that there were a number of unhealthy working conditions

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in the plant accounting for a large labor turnover. Due to the fact that we have periodically been surveying this plant, Mr. Hazard asked that we make the survey. Our investigations indicated that the asbestosis hazard was adequately controlled and had been for a number of years. Mr. Hazard accepted our findings and made his report to the War Production Board. The case was closed.

The Ruberoid Company of Gloucester City, N. J. also asked for a survey of their plant at the suggestion of Mr. Hazard and our findings were accepted by the New Jersey State Department.

The Industrial Hygiene Division of the Department of Health of Alabama was planning to survey the iron ore mines of the Republic Steel Corporation in Birmingham, Ala. and the Company asked us to make a check of conditions prior to the state's study so that they would have a clean bill of health.

Mr. Dyktor, Director of the Bureau of Industrial Hygiene of the City of Cleveland, Ohio made a visual survey of the Corrigan-McKinney plant of the Republic Steel Corporation. After learning that the Metropolitan was supervising the plant conditions affecting the health of the employees, Mr. Dyktor said that it would not be necessary for his Department to make a survey.

The National Carbon Company of the Union Carbide Corporation at Cleveland, Ohio asked the Metropolitan to conduct a survey of their Amalgam Mixing and Drying Department at the time the State Department was conducting an investigation of working conditions. However, the State Department did not have the proper equipment nor the personnel to take the tests and the Metropolitan was asked to complete these studies.

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Representatives of both labor and management of the Eljer Company at Ford City, Pa. requested the Metropolitan to make a survey of conditions in the plant to determine the existence of any health hazards. Our findings were acceptable to both factions.

Attached are copies of a few letters from our policyholders testifying to the value to them of these surveys.

ANALYSES

The atmospheric samples of dusts, fumes, and gases collected in the plants by our technicians necessitated making 2,499 separate analyses in the laboratory.

HOME OFFICE SURVEYS

Our office has continued to be of assistance to a number of divisions in the Home Office, particularly the Home Office Service Division and the Medical Division, in inspecing unhealthful or dangerous conditions arising throughout the buildings. In this connection this office will make periodic sanitary and industrial hygiene inspections of the Commissary Division. The inspection will include methods of preservation of food, refrigeration, food handling and disposal, dishwashing, vermin control, and cleanliness generally. Inspections will also include such work operations as paint spraying, lead soldering, welding, and other operations where solvents and toxic materials are employed throughout the building. Plumbing installations will be inspected occasionally for violation of sanitary codes and regulations.

All chemical materials used by our Building Divisions will be analyzed

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by our Laboratory and instructions given regarding their safe use.

TRAVEL CREDIT

The incidental expenses incurred by our field men for travel and maintenance while conducting surveys are charged to the Group policyholders for which these surveys are made. During 1945, our Group policyholders were billed for such charges in the amount of $3962.00. The amount of money expended for travel by the members of this Section amounted to approximately $4320.00. Therefore, practically all of the money spent for travel in surveying plants was returned to us by our Group policyholders.

SPECIAL INQUIRIES

Over 300 requests were received from our policyholders and others for assistance and information on industrial health subjects. These requests are received by mail as well as through conferences and visits to the Home Office. In addition to the old stand-bys for information on lead poisoning and its control, installation of a medical department and physical examinations, a great deal of interest is being shown regarding the bacterial control of air by radiation and aerosols, all types of dermatitis, as for instance those cases due to artificial resins and plastics, coal tar pitch, aniline dyes, and sodium silicate. A prospect in upper New York State wanted information on the prevention of dermatitis caused by red oil which is used in lubricating wool preparatory to spinning. The Group Supervisor told us that our service was instrumental in closing the Group.

A large food Company in Rochester, N. Y. wanted to know if there was a health hazard involved in the use of methyl bromide used to fumigate box cars

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in which grain, flour and other products are shipped, as it was necessary for their employees to enter these cars.

Another policyholder wanted to know the toxicity, if any, of chlorinated phenols - methods of safe handling and other precautions.

Another question which is being asked with increasing frequency is the effectiveness of the aluminum dust therapy in the treatment of silicosis.

Several questions as to the effectiveness of odorizers and ozone have been received.

Our Group policyholders are again sending in for interpretation X-rays of the chests of their employees, now that our doctors have returned from service.

Questions having to do with all phases of medicine from all sources are sent to Dr. Lanza's office. These cover a wide range, i.e., cancer, heart disease, coronary thrombosis, asthma and hay fever, nephritis, etc.

PUBLICATIONS

The revised edition of our booklet "Methods of Testing and Protecting Eyesight in Industry" (formerly called "Functions of an Industrial Eye Clinic") was distributed during the year and was reviewed in a number of journals. The booklet was very well received by our policyholders, health organizations, optical companies, and others. A few of the many complimentary letters received are attached.

CONFERENCES IN OFFICE

During the year, Dr. Lanza held 45 conferences in the office with repre-

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sentatives of our Group policyholders, Group prospects brought to the office by our Group Supervisors, and individuals from health organizations desiring information.

VISITS TO GROUPS

Dr. Lanza also made visits to the plants of ten of our policyholders to discuss either their high Accident and Health claim experience, or their nursing service problems, industrial health hazards. Among policyholders visited were the General Motors Corporation, P. R. Mallory Company, Peter Cailler Kohler Swiss Chocolate Company, Collins-Aikman Corporation, and the Alexander Smith Carpet Company.

Dr. Lanza attended a conference on Asbestosis and Tuberculosis held in Montreal. He visited the Division of Industrial Hygiene of the Provincial Health Department of Ontario and interviewed the Minister and Deputy Ministers of Health of Ontario. As a follow-up of the visits which Dr. Wheatley made at Thetford Mines previously, Dr. Lanza visited the Division of Industrial Hygiene of the Provincial Health Department of Quebec and discussed the work of this Division and the situation in Thetford Mines. The Mine operators have established an Industrial Health Clinic in an endeavor to reduce the morbidity and mortality due to Asbestosis and Tuberculosis.

MEETINGS AND ADDRESSES

During the year Dr. Lanza attended 65 meetings, at which he made 13 addresses. The following are but a few of these:

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Atterdance at the annual sessions of the Industrial Hygiene Foundation, at which he presided over the medical sessions.

Attended the meeting of the New England Section of the American Industrial Hygiene Section of the American Industrial Hygiene Association at Boston and gave a short paper on the present status of pneumoconiosis.

Atterded the meeting of the Medical Advisory Committee of the United States Chamber of Commerce.

Attended the meetings of the Council on Industrial Health of the American Medical Association.

Attended a meeting of the Committee on Physical Examinations of the American Medical Association with the Veterans Placement Committee of the War Manpower Commission at Washington, D. C.

Attended and presided over the Regional Industrial Health Conference at Chicago, Illinois.

Attended a Symposium on Industrial Medicine held at the New York Post Graduate Medical School and spoke on "The Industrial Physician's Responsibility to Improve Industrial Hygiene".

Gave an address before the St. Louis Medical Society Symposium on Pneumoconiosis on the subject of "Recent Trends and Developments with Respect to the Pneumoconioses".

Lectured on silicosis to the Fourth Year medical students at the University of Pittsburgh.

Attended a Symposium on Pneumoconiosis held in Montreal and gave a short paper.

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Addressed the Annual Conference on Health Education at the New York Academy of Medicine. The subject of the talk was "The Opportunity of Health Education in Industry".

COMMITTEES

Dr. Lanza is a member of the following committees:

Member of the Council on Industrial Health; Chairman of the Committee on Professional Relations; Member of the Editorial Board, Occupational Medicine of the American Medical Association.

Chairman, Industrial Medical Committee and member of the Board of Trustee's of the Industrial Hygiene Foundation of America.

Chairman of the Industrial Medical Subcommittee (Health Advisory Council) of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce.

Vice-Chairman of the Industrial Health and Medicine Advisory Committee, Procurement and Assignment Service of the Federal Security Agency.

Member of the Medical Board to advise The United States Employees' Compensation Commission on medical aspects of disability claims.

Dr. McConnell is a member of the following committees:

Fellow of the American Medical Association and the American Public Health Association.

Member of the Section Council of the Division of Industrial Hygiene of the American Public Health Association.

Member of the Scholarship Committee of the American Association of Industrial Physicians and Surgeons.

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Member of the Committee on Ventilation of the American Public Health Association.

Member-at-large of the Sectional Committee on Ventilation Code of the American Standards Association.

Member of the Sectional Committee on Exhaust systems of the American Standards Association.

Official representative of the American Medical Association to serve as a member of the Sectional Committee on Building Code Requirements for Light and Ventilation of the American Standards Association.

Member of the Committee on Climate and Its Relation to Air Conditioning Fundamentals and Member of a Committee dealing with all research activities involving the relations of air conditioning to workers in industry of the American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers.

Member of the Committee on Ventilation and Atmospheric Pollution; Member of the Committee on Standard Methods for the Examination of the Air of the American Public Health Association.

Member of the Technical Advisory Committee on Sensations of Comfort of the American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers.

Member of the Committee on Biology of the American Society of Refrigerating Engineers.

Member of the Industrial Relations Committee of the National Association of Manufacturers

Mr. Fehnel is a member of the American Industrial Hygiene Association,

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National organization and the Metropolitan Chapter; and a member of the American Public Health Association.

Mr. Petrick is a member of the Metropolitan Chapter of the American Industrial Hygiene Association.

LITERATURE

During the year, 8,390 copies of our booklets in the Industrial Health Series were sent on request.

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Dr. McConnell, who was granted a leave of absence on August 27, 1942 to take charge of the Industrial Hygiene Section of the Office, Chief of Ordnance, Safety and Security Division of the United States Army, returned to the office in November. His headquarters were in Chicago and he represented the Surgeon General of the War Department in the Ordnance Department and traveled all over the country to plants manufacturing, loading, handling and storing explosives to investigate health hazards. He was promoted to the rank of Colonel, M. C., A.U.S. in May 1945 and was awarded the Legion of Merit.

Dr. Lanza returned to the office on January 1, 1945 after a leave of absence since March 1942 when he left to head up the Division of Occupational Health in the Preventive Medicine Service of the Surgeon General's office, War Department. The Division maintained an Industrial Hygiene Laboratory which was located at the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene in Baltimore and

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which made studies of illumination, ventilation, and control of toxic fumes in Army operated plants. The Division was also responsible for setting up the Armored Medical Research Laboratory located at Fort Knox which had to do with research affecting personnel attached to tanks.

Dr. Lanza attained the rank of Colonel.

Another one of our staff to return from service is John J. Milesnick of the Laboratory. Mr. Milesnick entered the service on January 13, 1943 and returned December 7, 1945. He was attached to the Engineers and saw service on Australia, New Guinea, the Phillipines and Japan.

Captain John J. Ferry of the Laboratory Staff is still in Service.

Personnel of
Industrial Health Section
And Industrial Hygiene Laboratory

A. J. Lanza, M.D., Associate Medical Director
W. J. McConnell, M.D., Assistant Medical Director
J. Wm. Fehnel, B. S.
Anna A. Reilly
Peter A. Petrick
Owen Cullimore
Ruth Russ
Joan Shanahan
John Milesnick

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