

the inspectorate has done research on such questions as the health of foundry workers and welders, trigger finger, the grinding of basic slag and card clothing, and exposure to chloroform and ether while working.

The position with regard to notifiable industrial diseases in 1945 is reviewed. There were forty-five cases of lead poisoning, which was a slight increase over 1944, though there were only two fatalities. Cases from accumulator works increased, but in other industries there was a fall, and no cases arose in either printing or pottery works. One case developed from casting of lead bronze. Tetraethyl lead poisoning was not seen. There were five cases of mercurial poisoning, one of which was from the manufacture of ethyl mercuric chloride, a fungicide; the man developed neurological signs and died. Only one man, who was working in a photo-gravure process, developed chronic benzene poisoning. There were six cases of toxic jaundice, and all were from working with T.N.T.; this was half the number for the previous year. Toxic anæmia was reported seven times from working with T.N.T. or benzene; there were two deaths. One case of compressed-air sickness occurred from long hours in a caisson. Seven cases of anthrax were notified, one fewer than in 1944, and there were for the first time no fatalities; treatment given was penicillin with either serum or an arsenical. For the first time no case occurred from handling wool.

Epitheliomatous ulceration was reported in 215 cases, eighty-three being due to pitch, ninety-three to tar, and thirty-six to mineral oil. Chrome ulceration was seen ninety-four times and occurred mainly in newer processes. There were no cases of phosphorus, arsenic, manganese, or carbon bisulphide poisoning notified.

Carbon monoxide was responsible for 218 cases of gassing, eighteen being fatal; these are much above the pre-war figures. Eighty-two were due to power gas, forty-two to coal gas, and thirty-seven to blast furnace gas. There were forty-seven cases of gassing by chlorine, and twenty-nine through nitrous fumes, mostly in nitrating processes. Narcosis due to trichlorethylene occurred fourteen times, particularly during cleaning out of degreasing tanks. Gassing due to nickel carbonyl was more than halved in 1945, but one case of iron carbonyl poisoning was reported. Methyl bromide poisoning occurred nine times, with three deaths. Dinitroorthocresol, a fungicide, caused two fatalities; poisoning is by inhalation of dust and fume or by skin absorption. Seven out of ten non-fatal cases occurred when a change was made from using a paste to grinding dry in the powder form.

Deaths from fibrosis of the lung in 1945 were 1,133, over a hundred more than in the previous year. This figure included eleven from asbestosis, ten from byssinosis, and 387 in coal miners. The voluntary system of reporting dermatitis yielded about 6,000 cases, which was but three-quarters of the previous year's total. "Copra itch" was noted; this may be an allergic response to mite-containing copra dust. Special examinations were made upon luminizers, industrial x-ray workers, and benzene and lead workers.

In 1945 there were 143 whole-time and 903 part-time works medical officers; since 1944 the former have decreased and the latter increased. The total number of factory canteens fell somewhat in 1945, owing to the closing of some of the larger works. There was, however, an increase in the number of canteens in small firms not legally bound to provide them. The evidence suggests that the workers will continue to use the many canteens that first started during the war. *J. N. Agate.*

LEGISLATION CONCERNING SAFETY AND HEALTH AT WORK (LEGISLACION SOBRE SEGURIDAD E HIGIENE DEL TRABAJO). 1946
Madrid: Ministry of Labour. No price given.

This book, a summary of the legislation in Spain relating to industrial safety and hygiene, is divided into four parts. In the first is a general review of existing legislation, and the other three parts deal with special fields—namely, accidents in agriculture, accidents at sea, and the insurance measures covering accidents in general. In the first part is given the scale of indemnity for various kinds of injury. In case of permanent incapacity or death the sum due is given to the victim or his relatives in the form of a pension. If it is shown that the accident occurred in a works in which the statutory safety precautions were neglected, then the compensation payable is increased. In certain kinds of industry it is obligatory to have medical or nursing aid available. Employers are obliged to insure against any claims which may be brought against them by employees. Penalties are laid down for neglect of certain precautions and failure to comply with regulations.

During the course of the war certain special regulations were drawn up in respect of the increased risks run by crews of ships at sea. These were supplementary to existing legislation covering maritime personnel.

The safety regulations for factories and work places follow those obtaining in most civilized countries. Reference is made to mechanical safeguards, to lighting and ventilation, sanitation, and general amenities. All important industries seem to be covered. There is an absolute prohibition of the employment of women and children in certain industries in which there is danger of poisoning, fire, or explosion. Nor may they work in certain industries with a risk of disease from inhalation of dust. In some of these the prohibition refers to certain processes only, and not to all. There are also regulations which prohibit young people from undertaking very heavy work in transportation, and delivery boys must not take loads over a certain weight. Night work is only allowed for women in certain circumstances; these have to be agreed by the local labour council, on which employers and workers are represented. In country districts children may not work in the fields during class time.

Forms of contract relating to the employment of apprentices and certain domestic workers are given. The inspectors of the Ministry of Labour have unrestricted access to all works at all times.

A government institute for industrial medicine, hygiene, and safety was founded by decree in July, 1944. This institute undertakes research work, advises employers, keeps statistics, and takes a special interest in medical work in industry.

Many undertakings are obliged to provide a canteen, with suitable protection from the weather and proper equipment. It is also laid down that those above a certain size must also make available for sale certain foodstuffs and other articles which the workers may need.

In the last part of this book there is a summary of the regulations relating to noxious or dangerous trades, the electrical industry, the manufacture of explosives, chemical works, and others. It would appear that a very comprehensive summary of existing regulations has been drawn up, and that these have been carefully drafted to cover most of the risks and hazards of industry.

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Br J Ind Med 1947 4: 127

doi: 10.1136/oem.4.2.127

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