

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF INDUSTRIAL MEDICAL OFFICERS\*

### Sixty-Second Meeting

The 62nd meeting of the Association was held in Cowdray Hall, the Royal College of Nursing, Henrietta Place, London, on March 9, and at the National Hospital, Queen Square, on March 10.

On the morning of March 9, papers were given on various subjects. The programme is given below :—

“ Modern Views on Sickness Absence Recording ” by Dr. P. A. B. Raffle, Medical Officer, The London Transport Executive ; “ Factors Influencing Sick Absence ” by Dr. Cecil G. Roberts, Chief Medical Officer, G.P.O. Medical Branch ; and “ Sickness Statistics In the Factory ” by Dr. D. H. Paviere, Chief Medical Officer, the Ford Motor Co.

In the afternoon papers on “ Industrial Tenosynovitis ” (see page 00) by Dr. A. R. Thompson, Chief Medical Officer, Vauxhall Motors Ltd., Luton, and on “ Dupuytren’s Contracture in Dockers ” by Dr. G. Buchanan, Medical Officer, National Dock Labour Board, Glasgow, were read. Dr. John A. Agate, late Assistant Physician, Department of Research and Industrial Medicine, Medical Research Council, concluded with “ Some Aspects of Injury Resulting from the Use of Vibratory Tools ”.

In the evening a dinner was held at St. Ermin’s Hotel, at which the principal guests were Judge Dale and Lord Amulree.

A demonstration of neurological cases was given at the National Hospital, Queen Square, by Dr. Macdonald Critchley, on March 10.

### London Group

*Chairman* : Dr. L. J. Haydon,  
British Railways, Southern Region,  
London Bridge Station, S.E.1.

*Hon. Secretary* : Dr. R. E. W. Fisher,  
South Eastern Gas Board,  
Chief Medical Officer,  
589, Old Kent Road, S.E.15.

A meeting was held in the restaurant at Waterloo Station on February 1, at which 126 members and guests were present. The meeting took the form of

\* Full accounts of some of the papers read are given in the “ Transactions of the Association of Industrial Medical Officers ”.

a discussion on “ What Do I Think is the Purpose and Value of Medicine in Industry ? ”.

The intention of the meeting was that very short set speeches should be made. The discussion was opened by six invited speakers, and afterwards was open to the meeting.

The invited speakers were Miss B. A. Godwin, Assistant General Secretary, Clerical and Administrative Workers’ Union ; Mr. H. Briggs, Labour Relations Officer, Lever Brothers and Unilever ; Mr. R. A. Hayward, Assistant Secretary, Union of Post Office Workers ; Mr. W. Isaac, Chairman, Staff Side, Sectional Council No. 2, Southern Region, British Railways ; Mr. J. Marsh, Director, Industrial Welfare Society ; and Mr. L. J. C. Wood, Director, Messrs. Bell’s Asbestos and Engineering Limited.

On November 30, the Group held a dinner meeting at the Eccleston Hotel, when 102 members and guests were present.

Dr. Andrew Topping, the Dean of the School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, spoke on the theme “ Is Industrial Medicine Necessary ? ”. Dr. R. E. Lawrence, physician to King’s College Hospital, spoke on “ The Diabetic in Industry ”.

Dr. Topping’s address resulted in considerable discussion ; in particular, his proposal that industrial medicine should largely be taken over by the general practitioner, his suggestion that it should come under the wing of the medical officer of health, and his championship of a salaried medical service, all were criticized by a number of speakers.

### Birmingham Group

*Chairman* : Dr. W. Jeaffreson Lloyd,  
Medical Department,  
Guest Keen & Nettlefolds Ltd.,  
Heath Street, Birmingham.

*Hon. Secretary* : Dr. J. G. Lawson,  
Messrs. Joseph Lucas Ltd.,  
Great King Street, Birmingham.

The group visited the Nechells Gas Works. A number of local general practitioners also joined the party. A working model of a coal gas plant was first shown, and Mr. Hawthorne, Chief Gas Engineer, gave a talk on gas manufacture, illustrated

by an excellent film. Dr. F. H. Tyrer reviewed the health problems in the gas industry.

The party toured the works in small groups under senior members of management, and all stages of the manufacture of coal gas, producer gas, and water gas were seen, and particularly interesting were the processes for extraction and reclaiming of by-products, coke, tar, sulphur, and ammonia.

#### Tees-side Group

*Chairman* : Dr. W. Gillies Annan,  
41, Cleveland Road,  
Darlington, Co. Durham.

*Hon. Secretary* : Dr. H. Somerville,  
N.C.B. Northern Division, No. 4 Area,  
Howlish Offices,  
Coundon, Bishop Auckland, Co. Durham.

Dr. J. Stewart Gourlay, ophthalmologist, North Riding Hospital, Middlesbrough, spoke on "Ophthalmology in Industry" at the 42nd meeting on March 7, 1951.

Dr. Gourlay said that Sorsby had described ophthalmology as a branch of genetics. Recent simple analysis of the 75,000 blind persons in Great Britain today showed cataract as the leading cause (25%), followed by glaucoma, myopia, and heredo-familial defects. Pantocaine 1% (amethocaine, pontocaine) was to be preferred to cocaine for surface anaesthesia in the removal of foreign bodies, as it is more rapid in action and less harmful to the corneal epithelium. The frequent use of penicillin drops in low concentrations was deplored. This practice leads to resistant strains, which are being increasingly encountered. The strength recom-

mended was 10,000 Oxford units per ml., a strength which could cope with large cell viruses. Corneal ulcers responded to subconjunctival penicillin (1 mega in adrenalin and water); if a Gram-negative organism was responsible, then 5 g. streptomycin was similarly given.

Alkali burns demanded immediate irrigation. It was shown in America that buffer solutions were in no way preferable to normal saline. After thorough irrigation, all staining corneal epithelium was removed, and areas of conjunctiva which stained with fluorescein were grafted with amniotic membrane.

#### Yorkshire Group

*Chairman* : Dr. C. Cresdee,  
I.C.I. Ltd., Dyestuffs Division,  
Huddersfield.

*Hon. Secretary* : Dr. B. P. R. Hartley,  
Samuel Fox & Co. Ltd.,  
Stocksbridge Works, Nr. Sheffield.

A meeting was held on December 14, 1950, when members were the guests of the management of I.C.I. Ltd., Huddersfield, and of Dr. C. Cresdee. G. B. Jones, Esq., J.P., general works manager, gave an interesting talk on the dyestuffs industry. This was followed by a short business meeting.

A further meeting was held on February 1, 1951, at the Government Training Centre, Leeds. Members were taken on a short tour of the Industrial Rehabilitation Unit by Dr. W. N. Crowe, the medical officer. The business meeting, which followed, was largely concerned with the programme for the 1951 annual provincial meeting in Sheffield.



## Proceedings of the Association of Industrial Medical Officers

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