PROCEEDINGS

ASSOCIATION OF INDUSTRIAL MEDICAL OFFICERS

(Founded 1935)

Office Bearers for 1943-4

CHAIRMAN: Dr. J. C. Bridge, C.B.E.


HON. TREASURER: Dr. S. A. Underwood.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Dr. W. E. Chiesman, Dr. M. W. Goldblatt (retiring Chairman), Dr. D. C. Norris (Associate Member), Dr. R. S. F. Schilling, Dr. Donald Stewart and Dr. Catherine Swanston.

Honorary Secretaries of Groups

Birmingham: Dr. W. Jeaffreson Lloyd, Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds, Ltd., Heath Street, Birmingham, 18.

Glasgow: Dr. G. Buchanan, Clyde Navigation Trust, 39, Sawmill Road, Glasgow, W.1.

Leeds: Dr. C. Cresdee, I.C.I. (Dyestuffs), Ltd., Huddersfield.


Manchester: Dr. G. Taylor, Ferranti, Ltd., Hollinwood, Lancs.


South Western: Dr. G. Laurence, Westinghouse Brake and Signal Co., Chippenham, Wilts.


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THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF INDUSTRIAL MEDICAL OFFICERS, 1943

During the past year the Association of Industrial Medical Officers has met at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine on four occasions, February, April, June and October. Three meetings were held during Dr. M. W. Goldblatt’s term of office as Chairman, the fourth was the first of the new Session.

February Meeting
The Chairman announced the formation of local Groups of the Association in London, Birmingham, Tees-Side, Manchester, Leeds and Liverpool. Rules for the conduct of local Groups were agreed, including financial arrangements. It was also announced that the British Medical Association, after meeting representatives of this Association, had agreed to publish a new British Journal of Industrial Medicine, and an Editorial Board was approved.

A discussion followed on ‘Some Aspects of the Education of the Industrial Medical Officer,’ opened by J. L. Smyth, Esq., Social Insurance Department, Trade Union Congress, and Dr. Frank Gray.

April Meeting
The Executive Committee reported on a meeting it had held with representatives of the Royal College of Nursing to discuss various matters relating to the training and status of industrial nurses. As a result of this meeting Dr. J. C. Bridge and Dr. W. E. Chiesman were elected to serve on the College’s Education Sub-Committee on Industrial Nursing.

Dr. M. W. Goldblatt had accepted an invitation to join the Minister of Labour’s Industrial Health Advisory Committee. The Scientific Advisor to the Ministry of Food had asked members of the Association to assist in a ‘height and weight’ survey of industrial workers. The suggested procedure was outlined, and members agreed to participate in this work.

A discussion followed on ‘Human Problems in Industry,’ opened by Dr. T. M. Ling.

June Meeting
The Chairman announced the formation of two more local groups, at Nottingham and Bristol respectively.

Dr. Chiesman was elected to represent the Association on the Research Board for the correlation of Medical Science and Physical Education.

Dr. Catherine Swanston was elected to represent the Association on the War-Time Rest Breaks for Industrial Workers National Advisory Committee.

The Chairman opened a debate on ‘The Place of Industrial Medical Service in a Comprehensive National Health Service.’ He stated that the Executive Committee had carefully considered this matter and had drawn up a document which he thought would serve as a basis for discussion. The various proposals would be considered separately, and where a substantial measure of agreement was reached the item would be included in a memorandum on this subject setting out the views of the Association. The memorandum would be presented to the British Medical Association, which in the matter of a Post-War Comprehensive National Health Service was acting for the profession as a whole. The main points were agreed and the Executive Committee and Group Secretaries were empowered to proceed to draft the final form of the memorandum.

October Meeting
Dr. J. C. Bridge, C.B.E., was unanimously elected Chairman for 1943-4 and 1944-5, and other office-bearers were appointed for 1943-4.

Dr. M. W. Goldblatt, the retiring Chairman, was accorded a vote of thanks for his services to the Association during his two years of office.

The Hon. Treasurer reported on the financial statement for the year 1942-3. The members agreed that the financial position of the Association was sound and the report was adopted.

The retiring Chairman reviewed the work done by the Association during the past two years.

The Hon. Secretary was instructed to write a special letter of appreciation to the Dean of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine for the kindness the authorities of the school had always shown to the Association. It was decided to send a contribution of £10 10s. to the Association’s prize fund held by the London School. A donation of £10 10s. was voted to the Stalingrad Hospital Laboratory Fund.

The Chairman reported the delivery of the Association’s Memorandum on Industrial Medical Service to the British Medical Association.

The private business was followed by a discussion on ‘The Investigation of Toxic Hazards,’ opened by Dr. M. W. Goldblatt, whose paper is published in this number (p. 20).
BIRMINGHAM GROUP

This Group was formed on October 21, 1942, as a result of the decision by the A.I.M.O. to set up groups in the provinces. It replaced what was previously known as the Birmingham Industrial Health Group, started in February, 1942, by the whole-time industrial medical officers of Birmingham.

Meetings

October 21, 1942. Inaugural General Meeting.

November 25, 1942. 'The Essential Work Order and the Medical Referee System,' H. E. Chater, Esq., Ministry of Labour; Dr. R. Thornhill, Ministry of Health.

December 10, 1942. 'The Beveridge Report,' Dr. Donald Stewart.

December 17, 1942. 'Minor Sickness and Neurosis in Industry,' Dr. Russell Fraser.

January 27, 1943. 'Provision of Rehabilitation Centres for Sickness Cases,' Dr. J. G. Billington and Dr. J. A. Brown.

February 3, 1943. 'The Beveridge Plan and Voluntary Hospitals,' H. F. Shrimpton, Esq., House Governor, Children's Hospital, Birmingham.

March 17, 1943. 'Industrial Medical Research,' Dr. R. S. F. Schilling, Secretary, Industrial Health Research Board.

March 31, 1943. 'The Future of Industrial Medicine,' Dr. Donald Stewart.

May 12, 1943. 'The Beveridge Plan and Workmen's Compensation,' A. S. Barnfield, Esq., Midland Employers' Mutual Assurance Company; Councillor C. G. Spragg, Birmingham Trades Council; and Dr. N. T. Glynn.

July 7, 1943. 'The Structure of Industry—with some thoughts on the well-being of the worker,' J. H. Jolly, Esq., Managing Director, Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds, Ltd.

August 25, 1943. Film on the work of a psychiatric rehabilitation centre (Mile Hill E.M.S. Hospital), Dr. Russell Fraser. Joint meeting with the Birmingham Industrial Nurses' Group.

Action taken by the Group

(a) Demand by nurses has led to the institution of a Certificate in Industrial Nursing granted by the University of Birmingham. Members of the Group take an active part in the theoretical and practical training.

(b) Conference between the Group, the Regional Hospitals Council, and the Birmingham Eye Hospital has led to improved out-patient facilities for factory workers at this hospital and the appointment of a whole-time senior accident surgeon.

(c) Collaboration in the Medical Research Council's investigation (by Professor A. A. Miles and Dr. R. Williams at the Birmingham Accident Hospital) into the problems of wound infection in industry.

(d) Institution of courses of training for factory nurses at the Eye Hospital. Special short courses of practical training lasting 3 hours a day for 12 successive days, were started on June 7, 1942. Three or four nurses attend each course.

LEEDS GROUP

The inaugural meeting was held at the Algernon Firth Institute of Pathology on January 30, 1943. It was found that there were about twenty members of the Association in the south of Yorkshire, but owing to the present difficulties in travelling few of these would be able to attend meetings.

At this opening meeting rehabilitation was discussed and it was agreed that this was an urgent matter which could only be dealt with nationally. Among other matters discussed were certain problems concerning the ethical code for industrial nurses.

On February 27, 1943, a meeting was arranged to debate the Tomlinson report, but owing to many members being unable to attend this subject was held over until a later date, and a discussion on matters of general interest followed. Methods of accident recording, health among spray-painters, and the use of hot-air hand-driers were among the subjects raised.

On May 1, 1943, a special meeting was held to consider the place of an industrial medical service in post-war medical schemes, and certain resolutions were forwarded to the Executive Committee in London. Mr. A. B. Pain, F.R.C.S., was the guest at this meeting and replied to questions regarding co-operation between industrial medical officers and hospitals.

LIVERPOOL GROUP

A meeting took place at the Automatic Telephone and Electric Company on February 11, 1943, of doctors who were engaged full-time and part-time in industrial medicine in the Merseyside area. This resulted in the formation of a Liverpool (Mersey-side and District) Group under the auspices of the main Association. Owing to the transport restrictions during war-time it was decided that meetings should be held quarterly at which papers of industrial medical interest should be read by both individual members and invited speakers, and afterwards discussed.

The second meeting of the Group was held on March 19, 1943, when a discussion took place on the position of industrial medicine in a comprehensive medical scheme as envisaged in the Beveridge Report. It was decided that the Secretary should draw up a questionnaire on the subject and that further debate should take place at a later meeting.

It was reported that discussions had taken place...
with the Liverpool Panel Committee to initiate improved methods of co-operation between industrial medical officers and general practitioners in the area.

The third meeting of the Group was held on May 14, 1943. A full discussion took place on the questionnaire, which had been drawn up by the Hon. Secretary and circulated to all members, on the place of an industrial medical service within a comprehensive medical service for the country. The conclusions reached were forwarded to the Secretary of the Association of Industrial Medical Officers.

The fourth meeting took the form of a visit to Messrs. Pilkingtons, Limited, St. Helens, on August 18, 1943, at the invitation of Dr. R. Morris Jones, Medical Officer to this firm.

An industrial medical service had been in operation here for many years, and within the last two years a mass radiography unit had been augmented to preplacement examinations. The local Medical Officer of Health co-operated fully in these investigations and took over the treatment of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis so discovered. The X-ray films exhibited showed the incompleteness of clinical examinations without radiography.

At the firm's rehabilitation centre, recently started, over twenty employees were seen undergoing remedial exercises and organized games, under the direction of a qualified instructor and supervised by the medical officer.

A tour of the works afforded the visiting doctors some understanding of the conditions to be endured when working conditions necessitate high temperatures. The hazards in the manufacture of glass were minimized by the provision, for all operatives, of clothes specially designed to protect the vulnerable parts of the body.

LONDON GROUP

The London Group was formed at a meeting held at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, W.C.1, on October 28, 1942, under the chairmanship of Dr. M. Dobbie-Bateman. The hospitality of the School of Hygiene for meetings was offered by the Dean, Col. G. S. Parkinson, D.S.O.

Meetings

November 18, 1942. 'Problems presented by Men Invalided from the Forces,' Sir Henry Bashford.

January 6, 1943. 'Dermatological Problems in Industry,' Dr. I. Muende, Dr. Sibyl Horner, and Dr. A. J. Amor.

February 6, 1943. 'The Beveridge Report,' Mrs. Anne Carr, Henry Lesser, Esq., O.B.E., Professor H. Levy, and Dr. H. B. Trumper.

March 17, 1943. 'Some Problems in the Surgery of the Hand,' R. M. Handfield-Jones, Esq., F.R.C.S.

May 5, 1943. 'The Place of an Industrial Medical Service in a Comprehensive Medical Plan for the Country,' Dr. H. B. Trumper. June 2, 1943. 'The Place of an Industrial Medical Service in a Comprehensive Medical Plan for the Country.'

October 10, 1943. 'The Scope for Health Education in Industry,' Dr. Robert Sutherland.

MANCHESTER GROUP

The first meeting of this Group was held on December 10, 1942, in the University of Manchester. The object of the meeting was explained by Dr. R. E. Lane and it was decided that the area to be covered by the Group should, for the time being, embrace Lancashire and North Cheshire. The meetings would be held quarterly in the premises kindly lent by the University.

The second meeting was held on Thursday, January 21, 1943, when a paper was read by Dr. T. S. Scott on 'The Relationship of the Works Medical Officer, General Practitioner, Surgeon and the Hospital,' followed by Dr. Rowland Nightingale.

The third meeting of the Group was held on Wednesday, April 21, 1943, and at the request of the Executive Committee of the parent body the subject chosen for discussion at this meeting was 'The Future Place of Industrial Medicine in the Country's General Medical Services.' Papers on this subject were read by Dr. Donald Stewart and Dr. W. E. Chiesman. Following this meeting a memorandum was forwarded to the Executive Committee expressing the views of members.

The fourth meeting took the form of a visit to a Health Exhibition which Dr. Lane had been responsible for instituting at the Chloride Electrical Storage Co., Ltd., Clifton Junction.

Dr. Lane said that this was probably the first actual Health Exhibition which had been held in a works under the auspices of its management. He explained the purpose of the Exhibition as primarily to educate the workers concerning the simple methods of maintaining their health, and to demonstrate the precautions that were taken by the firm to prevent ill-health and disease.

The exhibition consisted of well-balanced and constructive propaganda dealing with the health of the worker during his 24-hour life cycle. It was divided into the following main sections: ante-natal work, dental treatment, safety devices as distinct from health hazards, health hazards due to specific employment, and blood transfusion services. Each section was under the charge of a monitor who had to explain the purpose of his section and what the exhibits were intended to convey. The sections were illustrated by clear and well-designed photographs and posters, and five-minute 'pep' talks were given over the broadcasting relay system in the works each day on a particular subject illustrated in the exhibition.

The exhibition also urged parents not to encroach on their children's rations, and stressed the importance of adequate vitamins in childhood for the pre-
vention of rickets and malnutrition, and the need for control of diseases such as scabies and pediculosis.

The exhibition was a greater success than had been anticipated and it was well supported by the workers who viewed it in their own time. Much thought, patience and ingenuity had been put into the formulation of this exhibition, and any firm that considered holding a similar exhibition had a good example to follow and a high standard to maintain.

NOTTINGHAM GROUP

The Nottingham Group of the Association of Industrial Medical Officers was formed in April, 1943.

The first meeting took place on May 27, 1943, when Dr. T. A. Lloyd Davies read a paper on 'The Medical Aspects of Safety.'

The second meeting was held on September 15, 1943, the address on this occasion being given by Dr. A. J. Amor, Chief Medical Officer, Ministry of Supply, on 'Some Medical Problems in the Explosives Industry.' Members of the Nottingham Medico-Chirurgical Society were invited as guests and joined in the discussion which followed.

Further activities planned for the future include a visit to Messrs. Boots's Day Continuation School, and an address by Dr. E. R. A. Merewether, H.M. Senior Medical Inspector of Factories.

SOUTH WESTERN (BRISTOL) GROUP

This Group was formed on May 15, 1943, covering the south-western part of England and based on Bristol. There was an initial membership of sixteen.

A subsequent meeting was held on June 15, 1943, in the Recreation Hall of Messrs. W. D. and H. O. Wills, which had been generously placed at the disposal of the Group by this firm. The business discussed related to the future of industrial medicine and a memorandum was subsequently submitted to the Executive Committee through Dr. G. R. A. Armstrong.

TEES-SIDE GROUP

The Tees-side Group of the Association of Industrial Medical Officers was formed from the Tees-side Industrial Medical Society. The first meeting of this Society was held on August 13, 1942, at Billingham. There were eleven original members, and meetings were held monthly until March, 1943, when the Society became a Group of the Association with additional members.

The following meetings have been held.

September 24, 1942. A discussion on 'The Functions of an Industrial Medical Service' was opened by Dr. F. H. C. Beards.

October 22, 1942. A discussion on 'The Relationship between the Industrial Medical Officer and other Practitioners' was opened by Dr. H. Fallows.

November 25, 1942. A discussion on 'Standards of Physical Fitness for Employment' was opened by Dr. J. W. Ridley. Dr. Ridley suggested that, owing to the increasing mechanisation of modern industry, mere physical strength was becoming less of a requisite in workers and that good physique was not necessarily, per se, an indication of good health. He stressed the sociological importance of admitting entrants with slight physical defects to carefully graded work. He thought the simple method of conversation was often preferable to others in assessing intelligence. He dealt with certain particular disabilities in association with special employments and emphasized the importance of accurate accident records in order to demonstrate subjects of accident proneness.

January 20, 1943. A discussion on 'Ventilation in Industry' was opened by Dr. D. T. K. Harris. After dealing with the questions of cubic space per worker in normal and toxically hazardous occupations, Dr. Harris supported the view that undue heat, moisture content, and lack of movement were the principal factors in ordinary vitiations of air; that the problem was mainly physical and not chemical, cutaneous or not respiratory, and quoted experiments in support of this; and he discussed the question of working-room temperatures and humidity.

February 17, 1943. A discussion on 'Eyesight Factors in Industry' was opened by Mr. A. E. P. Parker, from the point of view of illumination, the eyes themselves and their protection from injury. He advocated the testing of vision for all new entrants into industry and suggested as a topic for research the relation of ambylopic eyes to accident proneness. He thought that the great majority of eye accidents were easily preventable and that education was urgently required, particularly in respect of wearing goggles in certain industries. He also stressed the great importance of early attention in all cases of corneal injuries, however seemingly slight.

March 17, 1943. A discussion on 'Sick and Injured Workers, their Rehabilitation and Resettlement' was opened by Dr. R. W. Murphy. He maintained that rehabilitation should be kept in view, in accident cases, from the first moment of first-aid treatment in the factory.

April 22, 1943. At this meeting two local Trade Unionists attended by invitation and opened a discussion on 'The Trade Unions' views on Industrial Medicine and Industrial Medical Services.'

October 13, 1943. Inaugural meeting of new session held at the Metropole Hotel, Stockton-on-Tees. It was decided to hold future meetings as follows: Tuberculosis in industry; orthopaedic surgery in relation to industry; radiology in connection with industry; and skin diseases in relation to industry. The local Medical Inspector of Factories would also be invited to open a discussion on a subject of his own choosing.