The British Occupational Hygiene Society

An ordinary scientific meeting of the Society was held at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine on November 16, 1957. The chair was taken by the President, Dr. P. Pringle, and some 50 members were present. Four short communications were presented and summaries of these are given below.

Lighting in Industry
J. F. ROPER
From the Lighting Service Bureau

Lighting installations are generally planned to give certain illumination values in accordance with the recommendations of the Illuminating Engineering Society, which are based on the visual difficulty of the work being done, and take into account the practicability and cost of the lighting in relation to other costs. For this reason values of illumination recommended vary from country to country and generally according to the degree of industrialization.

The lighting installation may be planned to give a reasonably uniform illumination over the whole working area or may be localized in relation to the layout of benches and machines. Supplementary local lighting should only be used where the other systems are inadequate.

Shadows.—Lighting, having a strong directional component, can cause annoying or dangerous shadows but some shadow is necessary to appreciate form. Daylight from side windows should be supplemented by artificial lighting over the inner parts of the room to counteract shadows and increase the illumination over those parts.

Glare.—No installation which is glaring can be either comfortable or fully effective. To prevent glare, not only should all lamps and very bright parts of fittings be screened from normal view, but also the whole interior should be treated in such a way as to avoid excessive contrasts of light and dark. The majority of complaints about fluorescent lighting are due to the lamps being used unscreened to save a little expense.

The contribution which good lighting makes to the amenity or welfare aspect of the interior is probably, in the long run, at least as important as its influence in increasing production by providing better seeing conditions.

Manual Handling Operations in Modern Industry
R. J. WHITNEY
From the M.R.C. Unit for Research on Working Efficiency

This paper covered the following subjects: The nature and extent of handling operations in modern industry; the need for an improvement in handling efficiency and a reduction of handling accidents; available information on the performance of handling operations in relation to the type of information required; current investigations on the strength of the lifting operation in man.

Experiments in Foundry Ventilation
W. D. BAMFORD
From the British Cast Iron Research Association and Central Electricity Authority

The fundamental factors involved in the formation, raising, and dispersal of dust and fumes in thermal currents, cross draughts, and wheel air currents have been investigated. The results of these investigations, together with additional data from original work on exhaust air velocities, have provided a basis of knowledge which enables the methods of suppression or control of dust and fumes by air movement and other means to be worked out. The design data were established from laboratory and field tests in foundries and have been found to provide a sound basis for the economical solution of most practical problems relating to control at the source of dust in foundries. These data can be applied with equal effectiveness in many other industries where dust is dispersed by cross draughts alone or with thermal currents. This paper described the nature and extent of the problems that had to be solved in order to obtain the fundamental data required for the design of ventilating systems in foundries and also indicated how this information could be given practical application.

Special Problems of the Fine Chemical and Pharmaceutical Industries
T. DEWING
From Burroughs Wellcome & Co.

This paper dealt with the special problems imposed by the need to use many small manufacturing processes, often involving widely different occupational hazards, at any one time. Among the hazards considered were toxic risks, fire risks, and the problems associated with the handling of products.

Public Lecture

After the meeting there was a public lecture by Professor T. F. Hatch entitled "Human Engineering". (Professor Hatch holds the chair of Industrial Health Engineering at the University of Pittsburgh.)