

the subject, which, to our shame, does not include the United States—the birth-rate has fallen to a level no higher than that of France several decades ago; and the French birth-rate kept on falling until it virtually equaled the death-rate.

Certain students of these phenomena see, in the not distant future—especially in view of the war and its possible after-effects in the way of enforcing economy of living—a positive cessation of that rapid growth of population which has characterized the modern era in Europe and this country; probably this is desirable. Humanity has been too cheap.—*Saturday Evening Post*, June 30.



Ankylostomiasis Campaign.—Dr. Don Morse Griswold, director of the campaign for the relief and control of the hookworm disease in the Island of Antigua, British West Indies, undertaken by the International Health Commission, in his April *Report of Progress*, states that:

“Census taking has been completed in all the villages. The only additions likely are people who move into the area before the campaign here is closed. The total number of people in the Belvidere District is 880.

“All of these people have been examined who are likely to be examined. Only one refusal of examination has been met; persons under treatment for other diseases are not examined, except with the consent of the attending physician. A spirit of procrastination is everywhere present, but this will not seriously delay the work.

“Of the 820 persons examined, 238 were found infected with hookworm. This makes a rate of infection of 29 per cent. for this group of villages.

“Of the 238 persons who were found infected, 222 have started treatment.

“Of those taking treatment, 62 have been cured; 53 were cured with two treatments, 5 with three treatments, and 4 with four treatments.

“Thirty-seven persons have been found infected with the Schistosome *Mansoni*. This infection is very rare in any part of the world. The small number of cases reported in the medical literature have mostly come from the West Indies. This will be made the subject of a special report, when the extent of the infection, and the clinical aspects of the disease have been thoroughly studied.

“There are five privies in the area which embraces 880 people.”

Industrial Hygiene and Sanitation.

Free Insurance to Employees.—The following is a copy of a letter sent on April 1 by the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company of America to all its employees:

“To All Employees,

“Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company of America.

“Being constantly mindful of the loyalty and efficiency of our employees, and appreciating those qualities upon which the continued success of our company depends, and after a careful study of more than two years as to the best method of showing our appreciation, it has been decided to maintain for all employees, without expense to them, insurance in the sum of \$500 for all those who have been with us over one year but less than five years, and in the sum of \$1,000 for all those who have been in the employ of the company five years or more.

“It gives us pleasure, therefore, to announce that you are now, and from this date, protected by life insurance payable to your beneficiary in the event of death while in our employ, without expense to you.

“The protection of one's family in event of death is of vital concern. The ordinary cost of life insurance in proper amount is so great as to cause a heavy burden upon the income. In addition, many would be unable to pass the rigid requirements of the necessary medical examination for individual insurance.

“We are, therefore, particularly pleased to announce that arrangements have been made by which this insurance will be granted upon present employees without medical examination.

“Attached is a form of application blank. Please fill this out at once and return it to the head of your department through the person

delegated to receive it. From the information on this application the insurance will be issued, and all charges will be paid by us. In the event of death of any employee the full amount of the insurance will be paid to his beneficiary. In the meantime, however, this insurance is effective April 1, 1916, upon all in the active service of the company on that date, whose period of service entitles them to receive such insurance.

"In consummating this arrangement, it gives us pleasure to acknowledge the high order of intelligent and zealous service which has characterized the work of our employees in the past and we have every confidence that it will be continued in the future.

"With every good wish for the greater success and happiness of all,

Very truly yours,

E. J. NALLY,

Vice-President and General Mgr."



The House That Jack Built.—(Not written by Mother Goose but by the general safety agent of the New York Central Lines and consists of two reels, 2,700 feet, and 178 scenes.)—Jack is a brand new film hero and his one besetting sin is carelessness. One night, however, Jack attended the Company's "Safety Rally" at which Jack and his wife saw pictures of railroad disasters due to carelessness. Men were shown losing fingers, eyes, legs and arms and other valuable adornments, and by the time the Rally is over Jack decides it's about time to turn over a new leaf and be careful. So he goes home and "bends over the bed in which his two children are sleeping and resolves to banish carelessness forever."

The drama closes with a "cut-in" which reads:

Resolution became the Cat
That killed Carelessness, the Rat,
That was eating Happiness, the Malt,
That lay in the House,
That Jack built.



The Republican Platform Has Inserted This Plank.—"We pledge the Republican Party to the faithful enforcement of all federal laws passed for the protection of labor. We favor vocational education; the enactment and rigid enforcement of a federal child labor law; the enactment of a

generous and comprehensive workmen's compensation law within the commerce power of Congress, and an accident compensation law covering all government employees. We favor the collection and collation under the direction of the Department of Labor of complete data relating to industrial hazards for the information of Congress to the end that such legislation may be adopted as may be calculated to secure the safety, conservation and protection of labor from the dangers incident to industry and transportation."



Minimizing Accidents in Shops.—The Department of Labor of the State of New York has issued a special bulletin on industrial accident prevention under the direction of the Industrial Commission. The pamphlet is divided into two parts. The first shows what progress has been made in the work of accident reduction in a few of the establishments visited, and the second is a discussion of the means by which these results have been accomplished.

"Every accident," says the bulletin, "indicates the presence of defects in materials, machines, methods or men, or, what is perhaps most common, in a combination of two or more of these elements. The relative weight to be given each of these factors is not constant for all industries nor for all plants in a given industry." After considerable experience one large steel plant has estimated that the efficiency of its safety work is distributed as follows:

	Per cent.
Organization.....	45
Attitude of officers.....	20
Safety committees.....	20
Inspection (workmen).....	5
Education.....	30
Instruction of men.....	15
Prizes.....	9
Posting signs.....	3
Lectures.....	3
Safeguarding.....	25
Safety devices.....	17
Lighting.....	5
Cleanliness.....	3

The above distribution is suggestive at least of the nature of successful safety efforts.

The reduction of accidents depends, first of all, upon the attitude of the employer. It is of

little use to preach safety to men who work about unsafe machinery and in unsafe factories. Of course, guards cost money. But the compensation paid for a life or an eye would buy guards for belts and gears. Some accidents will still happen through the carelessness or ignorance of the workmen, the driving practices of tactless foremen, or through some other defects which cannot be prevented by mechanical guards.

The employer is not always in close personal contact with his men. In such cases he must delegate to his agents—his superintendents and foremen—the same authority and responsibility in the work of preventing accidents that he gives to them in maintaining the output of his plant.



The Comfort of Women Employees.—Miss Marie Louise McComb, the welfare secretary of the Export Building in New York, is to be responsible for the comfort of all the employees of the forty-story New York skyscraper, from the heads of departments to scrub women. It is estimated that in this building there are about 600 women employees in the office forces, and for their comfort and convenience the welfare department is to be maintained as a part of the building equipment.

This service comprises five suites of rooms on floors so selected that they best meet the distribution of the women employees over the building. Each suite has a large "rest" room. It is comfortably furnished with chairs and lounges, and these, with the rugs, pictures, and window curtains, all harmonize in one color scheme, either green or brown. There is a silence room, in which there are four or five cots. The room is almost totally dark and here opportunity is given for complete rest for those women who become ill, faint, or nervous, and have to leave their work in search of relief.



Government Survey of Health Insurance.—A pamphlet of some seventy-six pages entitled "Health Insurance: Its Relation to the Public Health" has recently been issued by the United States Public Health Service. The pamphlet was prepared under the direction of the Surgeon General and presents fully the economic claims and data underlying a system of sickness insurance for wage-earners. Much information from

private and official sources is included, bearing upon the prevalence and cost of sickness and the conditions causing illness among employees. An attempt is made to apportion the responsibility for these conditions between employer, employee and the general public.

The remedy for the present situation is held to be some system of state-administered compulsory sickness insurance. A summary of the conclusions reached by the report is as follows:

"Health insurance is the most feasible measure, because (a) it is a method by which the cost of sickness is distributed among those responsible for conditions causing sickness and whereby the burden upon the individual is lightened, and (b) it gives a financial incentive for the prevention of sickness to those who are responsible for conditions causing sickness.

"Health insurance in its most highly developed form (a) provides for adequate cash and medical benefits to all wage-earners in times of sickness; (b) distributes the cost among employers, the public, and wage-earners according to their responsibilities; (c) becomes an effective health measure by stimulating the coöperative effort of the three responsible groups and by linking their efforts with those of national, state, and local health agencies; (d) correlates all the forces at work in the prevention of disease, and (e) affords a better basis for the coöperation of the medical profession.

"Under an efficient health insurance system a contribution of approximately 50 cents per week per insured person (25 cents by employees, 20 cents by employers, and 5 cents by Government) should enable the insured person to receive; (a) \$7 per week when disabled on account of sickness or non-industrial accident for a period as long as twenty-six weeks in one year; (b) adequate medical and surgical care during disability; (c) medical and surgical care of wife of insured person during confinement; (d) a death benefit of \$100. Budgetary studies of large numbers of workingmen's families show that many workers pay as high as 90 cents per week and receive little more than actual funeral expenses.

"A governmental system of health insurance can be adapted to American conditions, and when adapted will prove to be a health measure of extraordinary value."

Buttons.—The *Travelers Standard* for June describes in an interesting article the dangers which may arise in the process of making that commonplace but very necessary part of our wearing apparel, the button.

The most hazardous button factory is the one in which celluloid is mainly used as the basic material. In addition to the celluloid there is usually a stock of cardboard, varnishes, lacquers, thinners, japans, and coloring materials—all of them high inflammable, and some of them explosive under certain conditions.

The manufacture of metal buttons has other hazards which are involved in the operation of stamping machines or other similar equipment. The chief hazard of the metal button factory is in the japanning department. In many respects japanning is done under the same hazardous conditions as coloring. The air in the neighborhood of the spraying machines is often saturated with explosive and poisonous vapors, and it is therefore important to install exhaust fans near them, or to provide other adequate means for securing positive and efficient ventilation.

Chronic bronchitis and bronchial hemorrhages are not uncommon among the workers, and these are attributable to the irritation of the respiratory passages caused by inhaling the dust. The dust hazard in button factories can be materially reduced by adequate general ventilation, supplemented by hoods and exhaust ducts placed close to dust-producing machines. It is evident that the hazards from power-driven machines in button factories are similar to those prevailing in many other industries, and as such they can be dealt with by mechanical safeguards. The dangers peculiar to the industry are confined to the hazards of fires, explosions, and poisonous fumes in certain types of button factories, and the occupational disease hazard in other types.



Industrial Anilin Poisoning in the United States.—The above is the title of an article by Rey Vincent Luce, M. D., of Akron, Ohio, and Alice Hamilton, M. D., of Chicago, which appears in the June *Monthly Review of U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics*.

In describing the use of anilin in industries abroad and in this country, its toxic effects and symptoms of poisoning, reference is made to

cases of industrial anilin poisoning which have occurred in the United States. The following are the conclusions arrived at in this report:

"Commercial anilin is a well-known industrial poison in Germany and Great Britain. It is just beginning to be known in the United States, where it has already been the cause of numerous cases of poisoning among men engaged in the manufacture of rubber goods, in reclaiming rubber from scrap, in making anilin from benzene, and in using certain washes for press rollers.

"It is a blood poison, causing the formation of methemoglobin with the consequent 'internal suffocation.'

"Poisoning may take place through the skin or the lungs. Usually in industrial cases both portals of entry play a part.

"Exposure to the fumes need not be excessive or long-continued to bring about serious symptoms in the susceptible.

"Young men are more susceptible than the old or middle aged, blonde than dark-haired men, heavy drinkers than the temperate.

"Hot, humid weather, heated rooms, and poor ventilation are important factors in the production of acute anilin poisoning.

"Early recognition of anilin poisoning is of prime importance so that the sufferer may be withdrawn from the danger of further exposure to the poison.

"Men working in anilin constantly seem to acquire a certain amount of tolerance to it; nevertheless, if the exposure is increased beyond the point of tolerance, there is apparently a cumulative effect, and symptoms of chronic poisoning result. After symptoms of poisoning have once manifested themselves, the patient is usually hypersensitive to the fumes.

"The treatment consists in fresh air, oxygen, and heart stimulants, especially camphorated oil. Prevention of subsequent exposure is imperative."



Eye Accidents in Pennsylvania.—Employers throughout the state have been more careful of the eyes of their workmen since the new Workmen's Compensation Act went into effect in Pennsylvania on January 1. It is probable that the number of cases of blindness from industrial accidents will be reduced to a fractional part of the number in previous years owing to the drastic provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act.

It has been the experience of officials of the Pennsylvania Association for the Blind, however, that many eyes that have been lost in industrial plants in this state were blinded through the carelessness of the employee rather than a failure of the employer to provide a proper safeguard. Since the first of the year the employers have been insisting upon the employees using the protection offered, and thus the number of accidents to the eye are doubtless being lessened.

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Health Insurance in California.—Through legislative action, there has been appointed in California a commission to study social insurance with special reference to sickness. This commission will work along lines similar to those indicated in the study which Massachusetts is now making of this problem.

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The American Association of Industrial Physicians and Surgeons.—More than one hundred physicians and surgeons engaged in the practice of industrial hygiene met at Detroit on June 12 and formed the American Association of Industrial Physicians and Surgeons. The organization which for some time has been in the process of formation is composed chiefly of men attached to large industrial and other corporations and to those whose interests lie in the same direction. The object is the study of industrial

hygiene in its various branches and the development of methods and the care of employees.

Officers were elected as follows: President, Dr. J. W. Schereschewsky, of Chicago; first vice-president, Dr. Francis D. Patterson, Philadelphia; second vice-president, Dr. R. M. Leggee, Berkeley, Cal.; secretary and treasurer, Dr. Harry E. Mock, Chicago.

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Occupational Clinic to be Established.—Philadelphia soon will establish its first occupational clinic at the University Hospital for the purpose of investigating conditions under which persons coming to hospitals for treatment are employed. In this way the relation of disease to occupation can be studied, and recommendations made to safeguard the worker.

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Dr. Francis B. Patterson, head of the Pennsylvania State Industrial Safety Bureau, states that industrial accidents in the last year in the United States have killed almost 35,000 persons, injured almost 300,000, temporarily incapacitated 200,000,000 wage-earners and cost employers and employees \$250,000,000.

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More than \$9,000,000 was spent by individuals and corporations in New York state during the past year for the protection provided by the State Workmen's Compensation law.

Legal Decisions.

The Harrison Law Again.—The decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in the Case of *United States v. Jin Fuey Moy* has been criticized rather extensively by newspapers, health workers and others interested in the enforcement of anti-narcotic drug legislation as doing much to render the law valueless from a moral and health standpoint.

The court holds in this case that the words "any person not registered," as they are used in Section 8 of the Harrison law, mean *any person* in the class which by this section is required to register. That is, the words above quoted do not apply to every person in the United States.

The reason for this decision has not been thoroughly understood by the "laity" (speaking

from the standpoint of the lawyer). Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, as able and profound a judge as sits in any court in the common law countries of the world, states the reason in his opinion. The Harrison Act is a tax measure. It is so entitled. To hold that it is a police power measure would mean that it is unconstitutional. If it is to stand at all it must stand as a revenue measure. The following passage from the opinion makes clear the court's position:

"The district judge considered that the act was a revenue act and that the general words 'any person' must be confined to the class of persons with whom the act previously had been purporting to deal. The Government, on the other hand, contends that this act was passed