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E. D. MERRILL

POSTGRADUATE COURSE IN INDUSTRIAL MEDICINE AT THE LONG ISLAND COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

THE industrial health problem, measured by the soaring curve of accidents and absenteeism due to illness, appears to be most critical. It is well known that industrial illnesses and accidents are rising, at a rate which in some states is outrunning the rise in employment. Sound industrial health measures more widely applied should help to arrest this trend, conserve manpower and thus aid the war effort. These figures have been cited to indicate the scope and increasing gravity of the situation.

By the end of 1942 twenty million Americans will be at work in war plants—almost three times as many as were at work in such plants on January 1. Sixty million persons will have employment in all types of gainful occupation by the end of 1943. One third of these sixty million will be women, many of whom are new to industrial work. The rest will be men, most of whom are either too old, too young or who are physically unfit for service.

If the health problem in industry is critical now, consider what it will be when these millions of workers, most of whom are poor health risks and inexperienced in industrial work, are in the factories. In the last analysis industrial health is a medical problem. It is to the plant physician, be he full-time, part-time or "on call," that management must look in solving its health problems. Upon the medical profession rests the responsibility for safeguarding industrial health. Medical schools share in that responsibility, for they are one of the media through which training for medical service in industry is carried on.

The supply of physicians with industrial medical training is limited. Yet many more physicians with a grounding in industrial health are needed to serve in new and expanded war plants and in civilian industry and service. Many physicians now serving industry part-time or "on call" will be needed for full-time service, possibly in more than one plant.

Granting all this, the college had the problem of deciding on the type of course it would offer. It appeared that at least two conditions should be met: (1) the course should be so arranged that physicians within commuting distance could enroll and still carry on their practise; (2) the course should be organized to meet the requirements for grounding in the fundamentals of the subject that would fit the needs both of physicians with some experience in industrial medical practise and physicians with little or none.

In its planning the college had the benefit of the advice of a number of industrial physicians, notably Dr. Cassius H. Watson, medical director of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, and Dr. John J. Wittmer, medical and personnel director of the Consolidated Edison Company, both of them alumni of the college. The principle they stressed from the start was: Keep it practical.

As it was finally developed, the course, which will be given from November 2 to 13, consists of two weeks of afternoon and evening lectures with morning clinics in the medical departments of industrial concerns. The material for the first week will cover the organization and operation of typical medical departments, physical examinations, study of absenteeism and a review of the human factors in industrial medical work. In the second week lectures and seminars on accidents and their prevention, industrial toxicology, traumatic surgery and nutrition have been scheduled. It was hoped that these topics would provide orientation in the main problems of industrial medicine for the physician new to this special type of practise and a new approach to some of these problems on the part of the physician with some experience in industrial practise.

A series of nine morning clinics, most of them to be held in medical departments of industrial concerns, have been arranged with the object of demonstrating to the students the subjects covered by the lectures of the previous day. A plan of internships of a month's duration in industry immediately following the course was devised for physicians who desire further training and who could be placed. Thirty-nine industrial physicians and experts in related fields such as compensation insurance will lecture in the afternoon and evening sessions. Twenty-three of these are from the metropolitan New York area and sixteen from other parts of the east.

The fee for the course is \$50, \$10 of which is payable in advance. Students may apply for admission for a part of the course, although they must elect to attend at least two full days of afternoon and evening lectures. The "per diem" charge is \$5. The number of full-time students will be limited to fifty.

ALFRED H. CRAWFORD

THE VAUGHAN RESEARCH AWARDS IN HORTICULTURE

AWARDS of \$500 each are to be provided by the American Society for Horticultural Science for the two outstanding papers of the year presented before the society. These awards are made possible through the generosity of L. H. Vaughan, of the Vaughan's Seed Stores of Chicago. They will be known as the Vaughan Research Awards in Horticulture. One award is to be made in the field of flori-