

galaxy, unlike that of neighboring stars or the stars of the Milky Way."

Other medals awarded were the Cresson Medal, the Potts Medal, the Levy

medal, the Clamer Medal, the Brown Medal and the Longstreth Medal. (See *SNL*, March 31.)

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setts and Spring Hill College near Mobile, Ala., and of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey at Ukiah, Calif., and Tucson, Ariz.

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PSYCHOLOGY-SAFETY

Disabled Have Accidents

Excessive number of accidents occur among workers with certain types of impairments, especially hearing defects. Efficiency equal to able-bodied.

► WORKERS with physical disabilities have more accidents than able-bodied workers, although the two groups are about equal in production and efficiency, Dr. Verne K. Harvey and Dr. E. Parker Luongo, medical director and assistant medical director of the U. S. Civil Service Commission, report, (*Journal, American Medical Association*, April 14).

Their findings are based on a study made in preparation for the responsibilities the Commission will have in placement of disabled veterans.

The job performance of 2,858 physically impaired workers and of 5,523 able-bodied workers, both male and female, of similar age, experience and occupational characteristics was compared. The workers were employed in 43 establishments of the War and Navy Departments in various parts of the country.

An excessive number of accidents occurred among workers with certain types of physical disabilities. Workers with hearing defects had accidents at the most frequent rate and at the highest severity rate of all impaired workers.

The other types of impairment which accounted for an excessive number of accidents were deformities of shoulder and hip, amputation of fingers and visual defects.

A psychologic factor plays an important part in accident proneness. This is true of both able-bodied and physically impaired workers. It is more significant, however, among workers with certain types of physical defects.

Fatigue may be important in this connection. The study showed that physically impaired workers given to frequent accidents also had frequent short absences for illness. Those who most often report minor illness may get tired more easily and be more likely to have accidents. Workers with arrested tuberculosis had the highest average number of days lost because of sickness but the lowest rate for frequency of accidents. This may be because a large number of them take

sick leave as a precautionary measure, having been taught while under treatment for tuberculosis to avoid fatigue.

Among significant findings of the study was the fact that less than one-tenth of the impaired workers were given special considerations with regard to transportation, lunch and rest periods, hours of work, methods of remuneration, special equipment or reporting time.

"The commission will continue," the report concludes, "to stress the need for, and within the limits of its authority, aid in the development of adequate health and safety programs for federal employees, so that disabled veterans and other impaired workers will be judiciously placed in positions where they may function proficiently and safely."

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SEISMOLOGY

Two Earthquakes Recorded Weekend of April 14-15

► TWO EARTHQUAKES shook the earth's crust at widely separated spots under the ocean bottom, during the weekend of April 14-15, seismologists of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey determined, from data transmitted telegraphically through Science Service.

The first epicenter was off the coast of Kamchatka, in the region of latitude 55 degrees north, longitude 161 degrees east. It was a strong shock, originating at 10:35.1 p.m., EWT, on Saturday.

The second quake, which was of only moderate intensity, had its epicenter off the west coast of Mexico, below the mouth of the Gulf of California, in approximately latitude 23 degrees north, longitude 108 degrees west. Time of origin was 3:50.5 p.m., EWT, on Sunday.

Observatories reporting were those of the Jesuit Seismological Association at St. Louis University, Georgetown University, Weston College in Massachu-

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