

PUBLIC HEALTH

Deaths From Tuberculosis Decreasing Among Workers

Dropping More Rapidly Among Industrial Groups Than Among the Rest of the Population, Studies Show

DEATHS from tuberculosis have decreased more swiftly among industrial groups than among the general population, Dr. L. U. Gardner, director, The Saranac Laboratory, reported to the Sixth Annual Meeting of the Industrial Hygiene Foundation of America in Pittsburgh.

Dr. Gardner's statement was based on careful studies by 30 observers in different industrial environments. It was made to refute "a growing tendency to account for a freshly discovered case of tuberculosis as a product of industrial environment."

"A low standard of living, rather than specific environmental factors, is responsible for most of the tuberculosis among wage earners," Dr. Gardner said. "For example, the influence of nutrition, fatigue, extremes of temperature and humidity and specific intoxications such as lead, were discussed and it was agreed that only nutrition had an appreciable effect upon tuberculosis incidence among workers."

Dr. Gardner found that of the respiratory irritants, including fumes and gases, as well as dusts, only free silica has a specific influence upon the disease.

To illustrate the negative tubercular effects of a pulmonary irritant, Dr. Gardner cited an experiment in which guinea pigs with super-imposed tuberculosis were exposed to arc welding fumes.

A control group of tuberculous animals was not exposed. It was discovered that in spite of severe inflammatory reaction in the lungs due to the welding fumes, the exposed animals recovered from tuberculosis equally as well as the non-exposed controls.

Another group of guinea pigs—200 were used in all—infected with the same type of tuberculosis, and at subsequent intervals of four, six and eight months, exposed to the fumes. The preformed healing tubercles in the lungs were not reactivated by the fumes as was the case when the animals were exposed to quartz dust.

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**SCIENCE CLUBS
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NEWS OF CLUBS

PHILADELPHIA, Pa.—The many and varied interests of Boy Scouts permit the formation of units having diversified interests. Take, for example, the Fact-finders, a club formed in Troup 293 Boy Scouts of America, and sponsored by Ben Maser, Director of Crafts, Hobbies and Educational Projections. This group is interested in photography, miniature model making, chemical and electrical experiments, nature study and collections, mineralogy, miniature gardens, aquariums and astronomy. It presents programs to the Parent Association and hears lectures by visiting scientists.

KALAMAZOO, Mich.—Last year Russell McDougal sponsored a club at the Roosevelt School. The club is still in existence. This year, however, this teacher of science founded a new club at the Vine School under the name of the Vine Science Club. And that's the way it goes—an active sponsor will stimulate a successful club everywhere he goes.

ROARING SPRING, Pa.—The Rising Scientists of Roaring Spring is the colorful name chosen by the club at Roaring Spring Junior-Senior High School. The activities of this club are general in nature, with field trips in the fall and spring, and visits to scientific places in the winter. The sponsor is J. R. Sprowls, Instructor in the Department of Science.

CAMP HILL, Pa.—School service projects occupy much of the time of members of the Lawrence Science Club at Camp Hill High School. Members of this group repair electrical systems, motors, and construct scientific equipment. The club visits the Franklin Institute and Smithsonian Institution regularly. Cave explorations are conducted by members whose club activities are sponsored by D. L. Knohr, Head of the Science Department. This club is also affiliated with the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science.

ALDAN, Pa.—The Active Atoms of Aldan (AAA) is the name of a science club formed at the Aldan Junior High School. Under sponsorship of Charles P. Forbes, Head of the Science Department, the club gives science assembly programs, is in attendance at a science congress, takes charge of all ushering, and maintains a 40-gallon aquarium in the pink of condition. The group also is affiliated with the Science Forum and the Suburban Science Clubs of Philadelphia.

ITHACA, N. Y.—This year, for the first time, the Department of Astronomy at Cornell University is sponsoring a group of amateurs interested in telescope making and in the grinding of optical parts essential to the construction of telescopes and binoculars. This group, called the Amateur Opticians Guild, is under guidance of Assistant Professor William Shaw and Professor S. L. Boothroyd. Already several 4- and 12-inch reflecting instruments are under construction. It is hoped that the proficiency of some of the members will develop to such a point that they may be able to accept government contracts for the construction of prisms used in army binoculars. The Guild extends invitation to outsiders with definite interest in such work to join the group.

TULSA, Okla.—The Field and Stream Club of the Woodrow Wilson Junior High School is actively interested in natural sciences with an occasional mixture of the physical sciences. Every year the club makes a Christmas bird census; participates in a school flower show; and prepares exhibits and papers for the Northeast District Junior Academy of Science and the Oklahoma State Junior Academy of Science. This club, sponsored by Edith R. Force, Science Teacher, also is affiliated with the National Audubon Societies and the American Forestry Association.

SAPULPA, Okla.—Members of the Sapulpa Junior Science Club at Washington School are making what they believe will become the finest collection of insects and seeds of wildflowers and weeds in that part of the country. The club is sponsored by Zella Breitenbecher, Teacher.

Clubs are invited to become affiliated with SCA for a nominal \$2 for 20 members or less. You can become an associate of SCA for 25 cents, which includes a copy of the 128-page Science Handbook for 1942. Address: Science Clubs of America, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington, D. C.

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