

There are fewer women than men engaged in industries involving hazards from lead, carbon monoxide, benzol and other poisons, Dr. Hamilton pointed out. But women are more susceptible than men to the industrial poisons and the number of women in hazardous industries is steadily increasing.

A further cause for alarm is that the effects of breathing poisonous fumes or absorbing particles of poison through the skin extend to the next generation.

"We have evidence, based on French statistics and on animal experiments that lead poisoning in the father affects the offspring, but the evidence is much stronger with regard to the effect of lead poisoning in the mother," she stated. "Striking statistics from French and English reports leave no doubt that a woman who has chronic lead poisoning is more likely to be sterile than a normal woman, and if her child is born living it is more likely to die within the first year of life. It is plain that if a poison is circulating in the blood of the mother it is practically certain to affect the child."

Industrial wood alcohol poisoning, which may end in blindness or death, results from breathing the fumes, and is exactly like the poisoning from swallowing wood alcohol, Dr. Hamilton told the conference. At least three times the usual air space is required for safety in a workroom where wood alcohol is used.

"In some occupations carried on by women small amounts of wood alcohol are used in connection with shellac and dyes and the amount of fumes is too small to cause acute poisoning, but it is an established fact that slow chronic poisoning from repeated small doses may also cause loss of sight," said the speaker.

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#### EAGLE ON ANCIENT CUP IS CLUE TO ITS AGE

An eagle, symbol of the proud and ruthless Roman Empire, when portrayed on a cup belonging to the early Christians must be taken as a significant clue to the cup's age. This is the latest report just made to the Archaeological Institute of America by Dr. William R. Newbold, of the University of Pennsylvania, on the mysterious "Great Chalice of Antioch," which has puzzled archeologists for the past ten years.

The chalice, made to be a holder for a cup used for religious purposes, is decorated with figures of Christ and the Apostles, and also with a wealth of symbolic design. If it was wrought in the first century A. D. there is considerable likelihood that the figures of Christ and his followers may be portraits by a craftsman who had seen them or who was furnished with exact descriptions of portraits of them. If the cup dates only to the fourth century or much later, as some archeologists believe, then its importance as a historic document is somewhat less. Dr. G. A. Eisen, who has spent nine years investigating clues to the cup's history, has decided that it probably held the cup used at the last supper of Christ and his disciples.

Dr. Newbold points out that the eagle, the bird that flies nearest to the sun, was widely used as a symbol of immortality by the Romans and by earlier

civilizations.

"The eagle, however, occurs but rarely on Christian monuments," says Dr. Newbold. "It has never been found in Christian art prior to the fourth century."

The reason for this he ascribed to the fact that the Christians must have strongly disliked the eagle because, "it was the most familiar symbol of the hated persecuting Empire, and it was itself a pagan idol. The eagle perched upon the standard of the Roman legion was the soldiers' peculiar divinity; to it sacrifices were offered and by it the most sacred of oaths was ratified."

"These facts supply negative data of some importance for the date of the chalice," he concluded. "The holder would probably belong either to the earliest period of the Church's history, before Nero's persecution, while Christianity, as a Jewish sect, was still a protected religion, or else it belongs to the age of peace which followed the edict of Milan in 313, when the monogram of Christ had replaced the eagle on the soldiers' standards. It is probable that the eagle could have been used as a Christian symbol at any time after the middle of the fourth century without giving general offense."

Dr. Newbold declines to decide which of the two periods produced the famous cup, though he states that "the evidence now in hand is distinctly in favor of a first century date for the holder."

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#### VESUVIUS ERUPTION PREDICTED BY ITALIAN VOLCANO SCIENTIST

The recently reported activity of Mount Vesuvius, which may be only the prelude to a really important eruption, was prophesied several months ago by Dr. A. Malladra, noted Italian volcanologist, according to Dr. Henry S. Washington, of the Geophysical Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution of Washington.

"I was in Rome last summer when a report of a Vesuvius eruption excited the city," said Dr. Washington. "I wired to Dr. Malladra, who said that it was only a rumor, as such reports frequently are, but invited me to come down to Naples and go out for a look at the mountain anyhow."

"He showed me a place on the side of the volcano where in his opinion the next outbreak was due to come; and from what I can tell from reports that have reached me the new lava flows seem to be breaking out at this spot."

Vesuvius is no stranger to Dr. Washington. He has visited it every year or two for a long period, and took part in a special study of its last great eruption, which took place in 1906.

"Though this eruption is not to be compared with the cataclysm of 79 A.D., which wiped out Pompeii and Herculaneum," Dr. Washington stated, "it was really very severe. One or two hundred feet of the summit was blown off, and the crater was considerably widened. After the eruption the new crater had a depth of about 1200 feet, with very steep sides."

"Since that time it has been slowly filling up again, and a small cone, two or three hundred feet high, has been building. Last fall the lava level was up to within one hundred feet of the lowest point in the rim."

"Vesuvius, however, seldom sends lava flows over the rim of the"