

necessary to establish a good liaison with the Labour and Employment Department. It has been agreed that, in order to effect a close working contact with the Factory Inspectors, the District Industrial Medical Officers and their staff shall be housed initially in the District Offices of the Labour and Employment Department.

The work of the Division may be further considered under certain subheadings:—

(1) *Education and Propaganda*

Education on healthy working-conditions needs to be directed to the whole community, as well as to those most closely concerned—the employers and the employees. An accident or illness incurred at work becomes a charge on the whole community, just as any other form of disability. Working-conditions everywhere, therefore, are the concern of each one of us, and general health propaganda should not omit to mention working-conditions. In the past year the Health Education Officer at Christchurch has included occupational health material in her general work.

A considerable amount of other work of an educational character has been carried out during the year. Some sixty lectures have been given to various bodies on aspects on the Division's work, and lectures should remain a prominent feature of the educational work in each district. The subject-matter is not only of interest to particular groups of workers, but to any socially minded citizen. The subject is also an extremely interesting one historically. The first organized efforts of medical men were of an occupational health character in relation to soldiers, and there is evidence that flint-stone miners were having their casualties from occupational hazards in prehistoric times. A useful adjunct to the lecture is the film strip, and considerable use has been made during the year of the one produced in 1947.

In October the Director gave six lectures to fifth-year medical students at the Medical School, University of Otago, and the Dean has expressed a desire that similar lectures shall in future form a recognized part of the medical training course, so that the Division has now an opportunity to influence the general practitioners of the future.

A number of lectures have been given here and there to groups of Factory Inspectors in the Labour and Employment Department, but up to the end of 1948 there was no proper training course for these men on the health side of their work. However, in February, 1949, a course was instituted at the Technical College, Wellington, which should meet this need.

The post-graduate nursing course again included a small group of girls anxious to qualify as industrial nurses, for whom a series of lectures were arranged. The Nurse-Inspector of Industrial Health has continued her regular visits to industrial nurses employed by private firms in the country and has done much to raise the standard and scope of the work in these units. During August a refresher course, covering one week, for all industrial nurses throughout New Zealand was given at the Post-graduate School in Wellington. Over 70 per cent. of the nurses were released by managements to take the course, and the employers' co-operation was further emphasized by the fact that all boarding and travelling expenses were met by the respective firms. The course served to encourage the nurses to consider themselves as a group of people working in a common cause, rather than being concerned only with their own individual factory. It also promoted a better understanding by the nurses of the advisory role of the Industrial Hygiene Division.

A very valuable feature of the educational work in the Wellington and Hutt Valley area was a lecture on health aspects of work to apprentices. This gave an opportunity to say something about the proper use of amenities at work and observing common-sense precautions against dangers to workers while they are still young. The Commissioner of Apprenticeship has been most co-operative in this matter, and if similar lectures can become general, so that every apprentice in the country attends at least one lecture on industrial health matters during his course, eventually some influence will have been exerted upon most of the skilled workers in the country.