

The Division has published during the year regular articles in a number of trade-union journals, a valuable method of putting our views and objectives before the workers. In all, during the year, some fourteen journals, including one or two run by employers' associations, have published a series of these articles.

Arising from the refresher course for industrial nurses, there was a request for the circulation of regular information to those nurses employed in factories, and the Department agreed to publish an *Industrial Nurses' Bulletin* quarterly. In December the first issue of this bulletin appeared.

(2) *Collection and Dissemination of Information*

This is undoubtedly one of the most important functions that the Division can fulfil. It is remarkable how a group of manufacturers with several health problems of a common character will differ in how they meet them. Factory A will solve the first two perfectly satisfactorily, but miss out on the third; factory B will know all about how to solve number 3, but not number 1, and so on. It is by no means uncommon to find a manager of a firm saying that such and such a problem is impossible to solve, and yet at the other end of the Island, or even the other end of the same town, it is solved completely satisfactorily. By acquiring a thorough knowledge of industries in the Dominion, together with the health problems associated with them, the Division should be capable in time of amassing a volume of information that is readily available to all who need it.

The most important place of all for collecting information is at the work-bench. The ingenuity, skill, and initiative of individual managers and workers in meeting certain problems is remarkable, and considerable national gain can be expected if the knowledge required for these successes is more widely and quickly disseminated. Officers of the Department must therefore carry out as many surveys and inspections as possible of men and women at work not only with the object of teaching, but with the object of collecting information and learning. Certain difficulties are occasionally met with, due to the economics of industrial production. Sometimes a measure calculated to eradicate a health problem is regarded as an asset in the competition with another firm and objection is made to informing others of how the problems have been solved. However, by and large, managers are most willing for any information they have collected on safety and health to be made freely available to others.

The Department has now appointed in its central office a clerk one of whose main duties is to cover publications of an industrial health and safety character from other countries and to index and record matter for future reference. A great deal of material in this field is now published in Great Britain, America, Australia, and Canada. During the past year there has been a considerable addition to the Health Department library of publications dealing with occupational health subjects. There is, in fact, already considerable information readily available that could be of great use to manufacturers, employers, and workers on health hazards at work and how to avoid them, and every year this material will be more comprehensive. Quite a number of inquiries are being referred to the Division, but naturally the fact that this service is available is not yet widely realized.

(3) *Special Supervision of Those at Particular Risk*

The study of occupational health originally developed as a result of the heavy casualties in particular groups of workers. For example, three thousand years ago the occupation of mining was recognized to be so dangerous to health that for centuries no one was put to it unless he was either a slave, a captive, or a criminal, and miners remain the group of workers subjected to more risks than any other. Though few groups have heavy casualties to-day, there are a number who warrant special supervision of their health.