

First-aid organization within most factories in this country need only be of a simple character and could be adequately carried out in many places by St. John or Red Cross members. If these organizations come to play a larger part in industrial health and safety work, it is desirable that some addition to the training should be made.

(6) *Industrial Health Research*

There has been no industrial health research done as yet in New Zealand and the facilities available will inevitably be very limited for a long while to come. Nevertheless, it would be profitable probably to do a certain amount. The enormous cost to the industry, for example, of accidents in the meat-freezing works, entailing at least £75,000 a year, might well repay a research grant of a couple of thousand pounds a year for a five-year period, and there are a number of other fields for equally profitable research. At the end of 1948 a letter was sent to the Secretary of the Medical Research Council asking the Council to consider setting up a committee to deal with research into matters affecting health and safety at work. It was suggested that a grant might be provided to enable a recently qualified medical man to undertake research into the cause of accidents in some specific industry and to report on methods that might be adopted (a) to prevent them, and (b) to lessen the duration of time lost. The decision of the Medical Research Council on this matter is awaited, but in the meantime an approach has also been made to the General Manager of the State Fire and Accident Insurance Office. Under Part I of the Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, 1947, which comes into force on 1st April, 1949, that Office is empowered to conduct research into the causes, incidence, and method of prevention of accidents, injuries, and diseases in respect of which compensation may become payable. If the Medical Research Council agrees to set up a research committee, it is suggested that it should include representatives of the State Fire and Accident Insurance Office and of the employers' association and the union concerned. A country as little industrialized, however, as New Zealand must inevitably rely for industrial health research chiefly on the findings in the more highly industrialized countries, such as Great Britain and the United States.

(7) *Rehabilitation of the Injured and Sick Industrial Worker*

This is a field in which the Division has shown no activity as yet, except to advise those responsible for the rehabilitation of returned soldiers in a few individual cases. If at some future date the organization for rehabilitating war casualties comes to be transferred to the peacetime industrial casualty, there would appear to be useful work to be done by the Division in this field. Rehabilitation in industry of the man who has developed a duodenal ulcer or tuberculosis, or of the injured miner or timber-worker, calls for exactly the same care and consideration as that being given to the returned soldier and, if wisely handled, could cut down considerably the loss of production that results from illness and injury among workers.

This new Division has taken its first toddler's steps and the above outline has tried to show the direction in which they are moving. The work is capable of almost unlimited extension, given the necessary staff and equipment.

DIVISION OF PHYSICAL MEDICINE

The Division was set up with the object of stimulating an interest in, and co-ordinating the treatment of, diseases of the locomotor system, particularly chronic arthritis, poliomyelitis, and cerebral palsy. It was felt that the treatment of these conditions was in many aspects inadequate and their importance was sufficient to demand the whole-time attention of a Division of the Health Department. The chronic course which these diseases pursue makes them unsuitable for active treatment in public