



When the articles for these two pages are being prepared from month to month, the writer often wonders whether or not they are being read and if they are being read, whether or not they contain information that if adhered to, will assist the readers in the prevention of personal injuries.

SELLING SAFETY has been my job for the past fifteen years, and even though the results of my work have been disheartening at times, the satisfaction of knowing that my efforts have been instrumental in helping eliminate human suffering, has meant a great deal to me. Having witnessed untold suffering, as well as the hardships that have been brought about due to accident cases that have occurred during my sojourn in this type of work, I can truthfully say that the ordeal of watching someone being "patched up" so to speak, really does something to a person. This is especially true when the accident victim is someone you have known and worked with for several years, and believe you me, I have suffered right along with the injured person on more than one occasion.

Even though *Safety is Free*, it is surprising to know that so many people wish no part of it. It is definitely no hardship for anyone to follow safe practices, and especially when such practices are entirely for their own personal welfare.

There is no doubt but that the person who gets hurt is always the greatest loser, and likewise, the person who remains *accident-free* will always reap the greatest dividends. It is an accepted fact that no person gets hurt intentionally, but that they are usually the victim of some *unsafe practice*. It is possible to commit an unsafe practice over a period of years without being involved in an accident, for statistics show that very few persons are injured while following some unsafe practice

for the first time.

Far too many people take the stand that safety is for the *other person* that accidents always happen to *someone else*. This attitude toward safety has not only resulted in many serious injuries to those who unfortunately have this attitude, but in numerous cases, it has resulted in fatalities.

When each individual accepts his or her part of the responsibility in the prevention of personal injuries, the total number of minor and major injuries will automatically decrease. An accident prevention program in industry is somewhat like a chain—*IT IS NO STRONGER THAN ITS WEAKEST LINK*. Regardless of how hard the personnel works to decrease accidents, just one "chance-taker" can upset the entire program.

Much has been said in the past about *Safety* being an operating problem, and how it ties right in with such things as *Quality*, *Production*, and *the elimination of Waste*. We feel that every department should be vitally interested in their accident record, for *WITHOUT SAFETY, Quality, Production, and the elimination of Waste will surely suffer*.

Even though our frequency rate of serious injuries was lower in 1949 than for any year since the plant started operations, there is still room for great improvement. Based on the fact that there is one serious injury for every 35 minor ones, we should all strive to help in every way possible to reduce the minor injuries. This can only be accomplished through the following of safe practices, and the full cooperation of every individual on our payroll.

Let us as loyal workers, accept our part of the responsibility in the prevention of personal injuries. *Ours is a glorious opportunity, a tremendous challenge, and a solemn duty.*