

ANALYSIS SHOWS ACCIDENTS AVOIDABLE

Accidents can be prevented by closer attention to our working habits. An analysis of those injuries in our plants during 1959 which required medical attention indicates practically every accident could have been prevented by the injured person or some other employee whose neglect contributed to the accident.

Careless handling of materials accounted for 14 minor injuries last year. Two injuries were results of "twisting the body while lifting." The weight of the objects being lifted was not great enough to cause strain; the manner in which they were handled was the gremlin responsible for the damage. Closer attention to proper lifting methods would have prevented considerable pain. Consider next a seamer who allowed a stocking she was carrying to touch the floor. She stepped on the stocking, causing her to fall.

Eighteen per cent of our accidents were due primarily to some minor defect of a machine which could have been easily corrected. Parts sometimes become jagged or sharp and should be replaced or corrected. Improper stowage accounted for three accidents. In each of these cases, one person was injured due to the faulty work of another. Improper work habits accounted for eleven per cent of our injuries, while improper operation of the machine was responsible for seven per cent.

Your chances of an injury are greater at ten o'clock in the morning and at three o'clock in the afternoon. Your hands and fingers will be injured in forty-five per cent of the accidents. The eye is the next most likely to be injured. The back will account for twelve per cent of the injuries and for considerable time lost.

Men account for sixty per cent of our accidents, although we have

almost twice as many women as we have men employed. Women account for most of the falls; most of our eye injuries happen to men while they are working with grinders.

One day is almost as safe as the other. Friday was the day of the week with most accidents, but the margin was not great. Most accidents occurred at Plant #1; but, there are more people working there. Plants #7 and #9 operated the entire year without a disabling injury.

The young and old share alike in injuries; there is no pattern in this respect.

Lack of experience is a factor that can definitely be spotted. Thirty per cent of injuries in our plants in 1959 were sustained by employees with less than a year of experience.

Injuries, large and small, can be eliminated in 1960 by constant individual attention to our work. The split second we take our mind off our work is when the accident is most likely to occur. A thorough examination of our machines, or work area, will most likely reveal some item for improvement.

