

ANNOTATIONS

WOMEN IN INDUSTRY¹

THE number of women gainfully employed in the United States had steadily increased prior to the War and in 1940 approximately twelve million women were employed. The demand for labor during the War brought additional millions of women into industry and the total gainfully employed reached eighteen million. Many of these women had had no work experience and many performed types of work which previously were considered only suitable for men. Under these circumstances, the efficient use of this new labor force and the health problems associated with the employment of women demanded serious attention. To meet this demand, Dr. Anna M. Baetjer prepared for the Army Industrial Hygiene Laboratory a report on WOMEN IN INDUSTRY. Although prepared specifically to meet a war need, the problems of women in industry do not cease with the War. It is estimated that more than sixteen million women will be gainfully employed by 1950 and it is to be hoped that interest will continue in studying and applying the ways and means for utilizing this labor efficiently and in improving our understanding of the health and social problems associated with the employment of women.

WOMEN IN INDUSTRY is a review and analysis of available information on the subject. In the author's words, "An effort has been made to present the scientific facts which are known concerning the health and efficiency of women in relation to their employment, to summarize the information gained during the war, and to indicate those phases of the problem which

¹ Baetjer, Anna M.: WOMEN IN INDUSTRY, Their Health and Efficiency. Issued under the Auspices of the Division of Medical Sciences and the Division of Engineering and Industrial Research of the National Research Council. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia and London, 1946, 344 pp. \$4.00.

need further investigation." A wealth of data has been assembled bearing on such subjects as: the physique of women; types of work and conditions of work suitable for them; sick-absenteeism of women as compared with men; accidental injuries and occupational diseases among women; gynecological and obstetrical problems associated with the employment of women; the relation of industrial work to menstruation, the menopause and other gynecological conditions; mortality of women in relation to occupation; and fertility of employed women. Data are not merely presented but are critically evaluated so that their limitations are made clear. On some questions, such as the relative susceptibility of women and men to occupational diseases, the relative frequency of accidents under similar conditions, and the effect of different types of work on the health of women, Dr. Baetjer finds that evidence is lacking or inconclusive. The careful evaluation of the data adds much to the value of this report.

Experience has shown that to obtain maximum health and efficiency of women in industry attention should be given to a number of special problems. These relate chiefly to proper selection and adequate training of women for a particular job, adjustment of machines, etc. to the size and strength of women, hours and conditions of work, and consideration of individual problems by the personnel and medical services. Recommendations for dealing with these problems are discussed fully. For the most part, however, conditions which are conducive to efficient work and a minimum number of accidents and sick-absences by men are also satisfactory for women.

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BCG VACCINATION AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS

STUDIES of the protective effect of the BCG vaccine against tuberculosis have been made with varying methods and varying results since the work was initiated by Calmette in France. Tuberculin-negative infants and children have been inoculated with the bacillus of Calmette and Guérin (BCG), an attenuated strain of the bovine type of tubercle, under the