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#### A SANITARY SURVEY OF A TRIAL CITY CITY BLOCK.

(By DR. EVANS in Chicago Tribune).

A great many persons have studied the sanitation of factories. The unions look after sanitation of shops in which their members work, at least in name. It remained for the New York City health department to investigate the working conditions of clerks, stenographers, and bookkeepers. These members of the white collar brigade have no unions looking out for them.

The New York City survey was made in the financial district. They made a record of the width of streets, height of buildings, dark rooms, illumination, ventilation, and sanitary provisions. The monthly bulletin for August, 1916, gives some interesting details relative to one nearly typical block.

The number of rooms in the block was 928. The number of employees in these rooms was 2.382. The average number of visitors a day was 16,097. For one thing, it was found that the employees did not get enough "break" at the noon hour. One hour for lunch and a little fresh air exercise and mental freshening is a requisite for good health and good Forty-eight sixty-nine one-hundredths per cent of the employees did not have an hour for

Eighty-five per cent of the employees were found working by artificial light.

The investigators found that though much attention had been paid to the aesthetic side of illumination, but little attention has been paid to efficiency. The illumination varied all the way from one-half of a foot candle to over forty foot candles. Observations showed that ceiling lighting, regardless of the system, does not give sufficient light when used by

The best effect was found, for the purposes of typists and bookkeepers, to be given when eight to nine foot candles fell on the working surface. The best results were had when higher placed lights

were supplemented by desk lights of low intensity, covered by green vitreous shades with light reflecting linings, were placed about nineteen inches from the work, in such position as to shield the workers' eyes. Such illumination was rarely found. It was found that seldom was such a color scheme employed for walls as would assist in illumination and would lessen the headaches and other fatigues due to eye strain.

The rooms were usually overcrowded. Only 7 per cent of the workers had over 200 square feet of floor space, while 26 per cent had under fifty square feet. It is considered that less than 500 cubic feet of air space per man is incompatible with efficiency and health where a man is to work indoors throughout the entire year. Eighteen and six-tenths per cent of the workers had less than 500 cubic feet of air space, and 49.32 per cent had over 1,000 cubic feet.

The ventilation can be good even where the air space is less than 500 cubic feet and the floor space is less than fifty square feet, provided enough air of proper temperature, humidity, and cleanliness passes through the room.

It was found that forced ventilation was used generally on the basements and first floors only. In four buildings forced ventilation extended as high as the second floor. The general conclusion was that ventilation throughout this block was unsatisfac-

The tall buildings of the neighborhood created strong air currents. The office workers would not open the windows on account of these strong drafts and currents.

Inside openings, such as transoms, existed only in a few instances, and when they did exist were not in use. Where mechanical ventilators of the individual type run by electricity have been installed the results have been extremely satisfactory, especially in those devices where the air is heated.

The temperature was often too high.

The humidity was almost invariably too low, ranging from 21 to 43.

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