New Hygiene Laboratory Opens

New services to guard the health of all members of the Institute Staff were shown recently when the Occupational Medical Service at the Institute opened its new Industrial Hygiene Laboratory in the Homberg Building.

New facilities, Dr. Harris H. Hardy, assistant medical director, in charge of the service, told visitors, will make possible skilled advisory services and extensive testing services for all Institute departments and laboratories, to assist in developing the most beneficial environmental conditions possible for all kinds of scientific and professional work. In addition, the Service will conduct classes to train Technological students in the essential requirements of a safe and effective environment for scientific and industrial work.

"The problem of analysis and correction of hazards due to radioactive or toxic chemicals and dusts, as well as the more visible problems of unusual occupational stress, noise, and lighting, are included within our assignment," Dr. Hardy said.

Dr. Dana L. Parnsworth, Director of the Medical Department, pointed out that the program and equipment of the Occupational Medical Service are among the most extensive in any American educational institution.

Advisory Capacity

Through prepared to perform many tests and evaluations, the Occupational Medical Service will act principally in an advisory capacity. Dr. Hardy said. Individual workers in various Departments are given the responsibility of carrying out recommendations, with technical assistance from the Service wherever possible.

Engineering services, including ventilation design, planning of filters and masks, and the use of appropriate respirators, are provided in the extensive program of the Occupational Medical Service.

Guard Against Radioactivity

The Radiological Safety Group, a separate unit of the Service, is chiefly responsible as an advisory group for all Institute laboratories using radioactive materials or generating radioactivity. The Group's facilities include counters and detectors of all types, and one of its responsibilities will be periodic inspections of all laboratories in which radioactive materials are commonly used.

All illnesses of Institute personnel will be screened by the members of the Occupational Medical Service, and those which appear to be serious in nature will be referred to the Occupational Medical Service.

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