

Occupational Diseases

By

Rosamond W. Goldberg.

OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES

In Relation to Compensation and
Health Insurance

BY

ROSAMOND W. GOLDBERG

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To
J. A. G.

PREFACE

THE problem of sickness in its various phases has been attracting considerable attention of recent years. This may perhaps be due to the rising interest in all aspects of preventive medicine as distinguished from curative medicine and to the mounting costs of sickness. For the wage-earner serious illness approaches the stage of being almost a calamity, as with limited means the problem of obtaining adequate medical care, necessary after-care and industrial rehabilitation, becomes a most serious one. And yet, each year large numbers of industrial workers are compelled to face the consequences of serious and debilitating illness, lack of income during such time of involuntary unemployment, needs of dependents and subsequent readjustments. Many of these workers are not even entitled to the benefits of the workmen's compensation laws, for their ailments are to be classified as occupational diseases which are but infrequently covered by such laws. Similar situations were faced for many years by workers in other countries where industry was highly developed. Measures have been taken by many of the European governments to meet the problem of industrial hazards created by rapid industrialization, through instituting systems of sickness or health insurance. Some thought has been given to the subject in this country. The purpose of this volume is to review the various hazards to which many workers are being regularly exposed, and to determine whether a system of health insurance can be applied to meet the large number of cases of occupational diseases and industrial poisoning.

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ROSAMOND W. GOLDBERG (nee Webster) was born March 16, 1900. She was graduated from Adelphi College in 1925 with the degree of Bachelor of Arts; and from Columbia University in 1927 with the degree of Master of Arts, the subject of her Master's Essay being "The Equal Rights Amendment". She also studied law at New York University; is a registered nurse in New York State; has been actively engaged in public health work, and has done some writing for periodicals on public health subjects. She is a collaborator on the Social Science Abstracts. In the summer of 1926 she studied at Harvard University under Professors Carver, Gay and Holcombe; the following summer of 1927 she was a member of the Institute of Politics at Williams College. At Columbia University she studied under Professors Chaddock, Giddings, Gulick, Lindsay, McBain, Rogers, Seager and Yntema.