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**INDUSTRIAL
HEALTH RESEARCH BOARD**
(Formerly The Industrial Fatigue Research Board).

REPORT No. 62.

**Two Studies of Absenteeism
in Coal Mines**

**I. The Absenteeism of Miners in Relation to
Short Time and other Conditions.**

By H. M. VERNON and T. BEDFORD
(assisted by C. G. WARNER).

**II. A Study of Absenteeism at certain Scottish
Collieries.**

By T. BEDFORD and C. G. WARNER.

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PREFACE.

The Board have previously published several reports dealing with the relation of the physical environment of the coal miner to his well-being and efficiency.¹

The two studies here presented, whilst forming parts of the same picture, were originated under different circumstances; Part I being a continuation of previous work done by the authors on the relation of environmental conditions underground to absenteeism, Part II and the Appendix being the outcome of an inquiry recommended by the Miners' Health Advisory Committee into the morbidity statistics of certain selected pits with reference to conditions both on the surface and underground.

As the Board have pointed out before, the question of causes of absenteeism is difficult and involved, bringing in besides the physiological factors which it was the principal object of the Board to study, a number of social and economic factors, to isolate from which the parts played by sickness and unfavourable environment is a task of considerable complexity.

The industry, moreover, is one in which the data which it has been found possible to collect are frequently insusceptible of conclusive statistical treatment and comparison as regards cause and effect.

The results of the present inquiries, which demonstrate these limitations, should not be considered as necessarily representative of the industry as a whole. In so far as they are positive, however, they are considered to be of value, and to be well worth the attention of the industry.

(¹) I.H.R.B. Report No. 39.
I.H.R.B. Report No. 51.

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

Part I.—*The Absenteeism of Miners in Relation to Short Time and other Conditions.*

- Fig. 1.—Fluctuations of absenteeism in relation to wages product.
- Fig. 2.—Fluctuations of absenteeism in relation to wages product at two pairs of collieries.
- Fig. 3.—Relative absenteeism in relation to wages product.
- Fig. 4.—Fluctuations in the absenteeism of surface workers in relation to wages product.
- Fig. 5.—Mean absenteeism of surface men in relation to wages product.
- Fig. 6.—Absenteeism from sickness in relation to temperature.
- Fig. 7.—Accident disability in relation to temperature.
- Fig. 8.—Accident rates in relation to the age of the men.
- Fig. 9.—Relative accident frequency of coal face workers in relation to age and temperature.