

# MAKING MATCHES

Occupational Disease Contracted  
In Manufacture.

## THE JAWBONES ROT AWAY.

Use of White or Yellow Phosphorus  
In Match Factories Destructive of  
Health and Life—United States Alone  
Allows Its Use.

"The introduction into any state, territory or district of the United States from any other state, territory or district or from any foreign country of any matches made of white phosphorus is hereby prohibited. \* \* \* And it shall be unlawful for any person to use white phosphorus in the manufacture of matches in any district or territory of the United States, and any person who shall violate the provisions of this act shall be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned not more than three years, or both."

The above is the context of a bill, H. R. 9057 (by Congressman Mann), which has been introduced in the house of representatives. In the Sixty-first congress Mr. Esch of Wisconsin introduced a bill, H. R. 26540, and also an amended bill, No. 29469, intended to accomplish the same purpose as the bill now before the present congress. The motive which prompted the introduction of a bill of this character was the serious occupational disease contracted by employees in match factories. At a hearing held on the Esch bill in the Sixty-first congress Dr. John B. Andrews, secretary of the American Association For Labor Legislation, stated that the United States, of all the important commercial countries of the world, was the only one that had not absolutely prohibited the use of white (or yellow) phosphorus in the manufacture of matches.

Previous to the hearings mentioned the department of commerce and labor made an investigation of fifteen match factories to ascertain the number of employees exposed to the danger. From the report it was revealed that 65 per cent of the workers are in continual danger and that women employees are in much greater danger than the men; that 95 per cent of all women employed in the match factories are exposed to a horrible disease, known as "phosphorus necrosis," and that 83 per cent of children under sixteen years of age are also exposed.

When it is understood that there is a substitute which can be used in lieu of this poisonous substance it is indeed remarkable that our government should permit its further use. It appears, however, that the only reason why the match manufacturers persist in using this deadly and insidious poison is because of its cheapness as distinguished from a harmless ingredient. The statement is made by the match manufacturers that they would gladly use substitutes for white and yellow phosphorus, but that competition is so keen that they feel it necessary to continue the present methods. One substance which can be used and which is not harmful is red phosphorus. There are French patents on a substitute known as sesquisulphide of phosphorus, which was invented in 1898. The rights were purchased by a concern in England that is closely associated with a large match concern in this country, and the patents for the United States are held by the American concern. It is agreed by all authorities that so long as the use of

white phosphorus is continued in the manufacture of matches just so long will this occupational disease be present. Great Britain, Germany, Denmark, France, Italy, Luxemburg, Switzerland and the Netherlands prohibit the manufacture of white or yellow phosphorus matches.

It is not likely that any active effort will be made during the extra session of congress looking toward the passage of H. R. 9057. At the second session of the Sixty-second congress, meeting in the coming December, a strong effort will be made to place upon the statute books a law which will absolutely and effectually prohibit the use of white (or yellow) phosphorus. There is no reason why an industry of this character, fraught with so much danger to the life and health of men and women employed in the industry, should be permitted to exist when its operation demands such heavy toll in human life when a harmless substitute, although more expensive, is available. Under all the precautions and safeguards which the genius of man has been able to provide, it has been impossible to stamp out the malady, and so long as there is a substitute which will perform the same service and relieve the working people employed in that industry of the terrible and agonizing ravages of such a malignant occupational disease effort should be put forth not only by the labor organizations of the country, but by every sympathetic individual who has the best interests of the human family at heart.

### Japs Forced Out.

The cement makers of Trident, Mont., have executed a two year agreement with the Three Forks Portland Cement company whereby an increase of wages has been secured and also the practical elimination of the Japanese employed at the plant. The agreement also regulates the rental to be paid for the dwelling houses owned by the company and occupied by the workmen. The officials of the State Federation of Labor were instrumental in the satisfactory settlement.



"A BLESSED OLD PUDDING."

### "Magic" Cloths.

Many housewives gladly pay 25 cents for so called "magic" cloths, as they are very useful for silver and other metals. Being dry, they do not soil the hands or clothing and do their work until the cloth itself wears out. To make such a cloth take one quart of gasoline, one-half pound of whiting and one-eighth ounce of oleic acid, mixing all together and shaking well. Soak pieces of woolen cloth in the mixture and hang them in the open air in a shady place to dry. When the cloths are dry the "magic" qualities have been given to them, and these they will never lose. The material must be wool.—New York Globe.

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