

who quite recently were discovered to have an inordinate mortality from cancer of the lungs? The obvious dangers we soon learn about and correct, but the insidious dangers which may be associated with work in many industries are easily overlooked and may be revealed only through extensive and detailed occupational mortality and possibly occupational morbidity studies.

One cannot stress too strongly and, apparently, too often the urgent need to secure comprehensive occupational mortality statistics in connection with the 1950 Census. Individual states should

coöperate to the full with the National Office of Vital Statistics in this project and make detailed analyses of their own material giving special attention to conditions in the industries peculiar to their part of the country. We are fully aware of the difficulties of the problem of securing mortality data of this kind but a start must be made even if the results leave something to be desired in the way of complete accuracy. Imperfect though our deductions may be, they may result in important discoveries leading to improvement in the health and longevity of the worker.

New York's Fluoridation Control

According to the March, 1951, issue of the *New York State Health News*, the New York State Department of Health has recommended that cities and villages fluoridate their potable water supplies; subject however to the ability of the municipalities to provide adequate control measures in accordance with requirements set forth by the department. A digest of these requirements follows:

Approval of the State Commissioner of Health is required before compounds can be added and the state must be satisfied that adequate control will be carried out. The owner or operator of the water supply is responsible for the provision of accurate feeding equipment. Accuracy of dosage within 10 per cent is required. Special precautions must be taken to protect the operator from inhaling dust containing fluorine com-

pounds and operators must be provided with individual respirators and rubber gloves.

The treatment process must be so controlled that the maximum concentration of fluorine in the treated water does not exceed 1.5 p.p.m. at any time. The health officer having jurisdiction has been designated as the person to supervise the concentration of fluorine in the treated water. He must arrange for the collection of samples and for the chemical analyses in a laboratory approved for this purpose by the Commissioner. The owner or operator is responsible for the collection and testing of the samples as often as the Commissioner of Health prescribes. Accurate daily records must be kept on forms supplied by or approved by the State Commissioner of Health and must be submitted monthly.