

radium was opened in Orange, and a very much enlarged plant for the application of luminous material was built. . . .

The [dial painting] work was easy, the operators well paid, and as conditions turned out, we unfortunately gave work to a great many people who were physically unfit to procure employment in other lines of industry. Cripples and persons similarly incapacitated were engaged. What was then considered an act of kindness on our part has since been turned against us, as all previous employees, regardless of what they may have been suffering from or are suffering from at the present time, in the minds of the general public can be attributed to "Radium Poisoning." Our operations were carried on at a very large scale until about 1920, when our large customers began to install, with our assistance, application plants in their own factories. This policy naturally reduced our force considerably, until in 1923 or 1924, we had only a mere handful of operators engaged in luminous material application.

In the early part of 1924, it was called to our attention, through a highly reputable dental firm, that some of our employees were suffering from what was believed to be phosphorus poisoning. . . .

There was a thought at the time that if a condition existed it might be due to the brushes, and therefore all brushes were thoroughly sterilized before being used by the operators. Absolute instructions were given not to point the brushes with the lips. We also engaged Dr. Cecil K. Drinker of the Industrial Hygiene Section of the Harvard School of Medicine to make a survey of our plant and to make recommendations. Dr. Drinker made several trips to the plant, made numerous tests, and finally reported on June 3, 1924, that since he could find no direct cause for the apparent trouble which existed, radium looked suspicious. . . .

In the early part of 1925, two suits were instituted against the corporation, claiming injury from their employment. About this time the Consumer's League of New Jersey took an active interest in the matter, and enlisted the support of Dr. Frederick L. Hoffman, Statistician for the Prudential Insurance Company. Although not a physician and having no knowledge regarding radium, Dr. Hoffman read a paper before the American Medical Association Convention in Atlantic City, May 1925, and named