

during working hours, that windows are accessible, and that floors of buildings are provided with suitable means for extinguishing fires.

ACCIDENTS.

It is much to be deplored that manufacturers in Illinois are not required to report to the inspectors every accident which occurs in a factory, so that the circumstances might be investigated, and a repetition of the occurrence avoided. For lack of this provision, this report contains no such comprehensive information upon this important subject as is contained in the reports of the inspectors of several other States.

No Illinois statute regulates the ventilation of workrooms, the provision of toilet facilities, fire escapes, machine guards; security for elevators, hoists and hatchways; and, in general, all those precautions against accidents and disease which experience in older manufacturing States has shown to be needful.

In New York, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Ohio the requirement that every accident be promptly reported to the inspectors by the proprietor of the factory or workshop in which it occurs, is a long-established feature of the factory law. This provision enables the inspectors to make prompt and effective investigation of accidents, and to devise ways of preventing repetition of the same form of danger.

This, however, is merely an adjunct to the requirement that the factory inspectors shall inspect all machinery, shafting, gearing, elevators, hoists, and elevator shafts; and shall order such changes as may be necessary to secure safety of life and limb for all persons on the premises.

In the same year in which the Illinois factory law was enacted a far more comprehensive one was adopted in Minnesota, containing provisions for safeguarding factory employes. One result of the enforcement of these provisions is most instructively stated in the latest report of the Minnesota Bureau of Labor. The commissioner's conclusion is that children engaged in dangerous occupations cannot be adequately safeguarded, and he therefore urges that all such employment of children be prohibited, as is shown in the following extract, condensed from his report:

The accidents by gearing, jointers, paper-box machinery, projecting set-screws, planing machines, saws, shapers, and miscellaneous machinery, can be quite largely eliminated by the use of guards.

Young people, even more than older ones, do not appreciate the value of guards for dangerous machinery and places; the young are less ready to use safety devices than are the old. This is known to be the case more markedly with persons under 16. A few old workmen are headstrong and reckless, and refuse to use the safeguards provided by their employers; but a greater number of such cases are found among the young, who as yet have not had experience fitting them to measure hazard and guard themselves against risk of injury to life, health and limb.

This truth is emphasized by the accidents to boys under 16 years of age reported to this department; these were fifteen in number. Probably if the ages of all injured persons were accurately given, this number