

Student Handout 6 – Document A

The Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel and Tin Workers established a death benefit fund in 1904, and since then they have kept a record of the number and causes of deaths. This record is not a complete list even for the members of that organization, for deaths of members not in good standing, and so ineligible to the benefits, are not reported. The reports indicate, however, that the diseases causing the most deaths among iron, steel and tin workers are of a sort likely to be induced by dust, heat conditions, and sudden changes in temperature. Among these tuberculosis leads and pneumonia stands second. Accidents claim a larger percentage than any other one cause; stomach and bowel troubles, especially typhoid, are common. Oliver states that English iron and steel workers have a mortality figure 37 per cent above that of the standard of occupied males, and the same writer ascribes to iron workers greater suffering than that endured by others "from influenza and from diseases of the nervous, circulatory, respiratory, digestive and urinary systems." Their mortality figure from lung diseases he says is "more than double the standard figure."

Source: The Pittsburgh Survey, Chapter VII: Health and Accidents in Making Steel, p. 62.