

# THE MODERN FACTORY

SAFETY, SANITATION AND WELFARE

BY

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BY

GEORGE M. PRICE

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TO  
**Mary E. Drrier**  
THE HEART AND SOUL  
OF THE  
NEW YORK STATE FACTORY COMMISSION  
THIS BOOK  
IS DEDICATED IN APPRECIATION AND RESPECT

## PREFACE

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THERE were in the United States, according to the census of 1909, 268,491 industrial establishments in which there worked 6,615,046 persons. These figures do not include a great many smaller workshops in stores, separate parts of industrial establishments and small domestic workshops.

The modern factory is, therefore, a paramount economic force in the social and industrial life of the country and the nation.

Factory and labor legislation, industrial relations between capital and labor, improvement of factory conditions and amelioration of the conditions of the large mass of American workers are the burning questions of the day and the most vital problems of the hour.

The Federal government, the legislatures of individual states and many private social organizations throughout the country vie with each other in numerous inquiries, conferences, investigation, commissions, exhibits, etc., all bearing on the subject of industrial and factory conditions.

The time is ripe for a treatise on the modern factory; for, in spite of all the intense interest in the subject of industrial and factory conditions, there is as yet no special book on this subject in the English language.

An attempt is made in this book to give a comprehensive, although necessarily brief, review of the safety and sanitary conditions of factories and workshops as they are, and to indicate the methods of safety, sanitation, efficiency and welfare of factories and workshops as they should be.

As sanitary inspector of the New York Health Department for a number of years, as student and teacher of sanitary science, as practitioner for twenty years in the most crowded section of the East Side in New York City, as author of a number of books on general sanitation and hygiene, the writer has had special opportunities for studying industrial workers and industrial conditions at first hand.

Since 1910 the author has been and still is the Director of the Joint Board of Sanitary Control in the Cloak, Suit and Skirt and the Dress and Waist Industries, this new experiment in the sanitary control of an industry by those most interested in the industry itself: viz., organized employers, organized workmen and representatives of the public. In 1912 and 1913 the author was the Director of the investigations of the New York State Factory Commission, during which time he made extensive tours of inspection throughout the state, visiting hundreds of establishments in this as well as in other states. During the summer of 1913 he made for the United States Department of Labor a study of factory inspection in England, France, Germany, Austria, Belgium and Switzerland, the result of which has been published in a report issued as Bulletin No. 142 of the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Acknowledgment is due to the Honorable Robert F. Wagner, State Senator of New York and Chairman of the New York State Factory Commission, and to the Honorable Abram I. Elkus, Counsel for the Commission, for permission to use many of the illustrations which have appeared previously in my official reports to the Commission. Thanks are also due to the many industrial corporations and private individuals who have kindly loaned me illustrations, full credit for which has been given in the text of the book.

Grateful acknowledgments are due to the following gentlemen: Professor C.-E. A. Winslow for reading the chapter on "Ventilation"; Messrs. J. K. Freitag and H. F. J. Porter for reading the chapter on "Fire Protection"; Mr. William Newell of the New York Labor Department for reading the chapter on "Safety and Accident Prevention"; and Mr. Norman Macbeth for revising the chapter on "Light and Illumination."

I cheerfully acknowledge my gratitude to Miss Violet ~~Lee~~, my literary assistant and secretary, for her most efficient, faithful and industrious help in looking up literature, in reading manuscripts and proofs, in gathering data and general help in the laborious work of writing and bringing the book to press.

The book has been written and prepared for press within less than six months. It is inevitable that in such a hasty preparation there will be found a number of errors of omission and commission, for which indulgence is craved and which will be corrected in future editions if such are called for.

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