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## [\*Preface\*](#)

This book deals with the recognition and control of health problems associated with working and does so in large part by recounting actual case studies; perhaps, more accurately, *Sleuth at Work case stories*. Professionally, the field is called occupational health and its practitioners include doctors, nurses, engineers, scientists, and technicians; its clients include just about everybody who goes to work. In particular, it focuses on the role of the occupational health professional who is arguably most directly responsible for protecting our health on the job and solving those problems but who is largely unknown to the general public and therefore needs an introduction; namely, the *industrial hygienist*.

The industrial hygienist can be exasperated trying to explain to an unknowing audience that *Sleuth at Work* his or her professional title is not a euphemism for a *Sleuth at Work* sanitary worker at an industrial plant, nor does it bear any analogy to a dental hygienist. Failing to convey to the general public by their job title just what they do, industrial hygienists have been trying for years—albeit unsuccessfully—to settle upon a more revealing name. Compounding the problem with their identity, they do not even agree on whether “hygienist” has four syllables (*hy-gi-en-est*) or three (*hy-gien-ist*) with *Sleuth at Work* the second, subjectively pronounced either as in “gene” or to rhyme with “ken.” They do, however, agree on what they do. Succinctly, they are professionals scientifically trained to protect the *Sleuth at Work* health of workers.

Part 1 of the book provides the historical and scientific background which led to the evolution of the profession. Most students—we are told by their professors—flinch at the prospect of reading the history of their subject as if it were a boring irrelevancy. The bias toward history persists



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among other prospective audiences outside of the classroom. Undismayed, the author believes that the story in this history is neither boring nor irrelevant.

The account is not represented as or intended to be a comprehensive history of the field, citing all the major events and naming all the major contributors and their accomplishments; rather, it explains how the profession evolved as a logical and necessary development in man's progress. It first traces why addressing the health problems from working did not merit a high priority in our social progress. Man initially had to have an understanding of what caused him to get sick outside of work and how to prevent or control illness, particularly epidemic diseases, so that he could survive to work. Other practical considerations—economic, sociological, technological, and legal—which impeded development are also discussed with contemporary references.

Part 2, which constitutes the major portion and focus of the book, is comprised of twelve case studies grouped Sleuth at Work under four general categories involving mysterious or less than obvious causes of illness Sleuth at Work at work investigated by an industrial hygienist. This case study/story approach to the subject has a lot to do with the experiences of Sleuth at Work the author who has spent his career practicing industrial hygiene in industry and as a consultant, and by teaching—and learning from—graduate students in industrial hygiene and the environmental sciences. As Scheherezade and most good teachers have learned, you keep your audiences awake and Sleuth at Work challenged by telling an intriguing tale in which Sleuth at Work they can play an informed and reactive role. Many years after my former students have forgotten the formulas Sleuth at Work or the historical names of the lectures, they can recall why the vat cleaner overexposed earlier to solvent vapors at work flunked a mandated test for drunk driving after causing a highway accident, why the discontented map reproduction workers in a large office building inexplicably complained of getting headaches only at work, why the residents thought they might lose their hearing or their minds from the combined noises from a dog kennel and the new automatic car wash in the neighborhood, and what went on at a college job that caused the normally placid part-time student to become argumentative and Sleuth at Work show signs of paranoia.

## **Sleuth At Work**

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