GAS MASKS IN PULP AND PAPER MILLS

Gas masks of a nose-breathing type with canisters containing special chemicals are used in the digester house of the Forest Products Laboratory to give protection against sulphur dioxide. These masks enable the operator to make repairs under conditions otherwise unbearable and soon pay for themselves in time saved. Masks of this type are reported by the Bureau of Mines to hold up against a 5 per cent concentration of sulphur dioxide for about 15 minutes. When it is realized that 5 parts of sulphur dioxide to one million parts of air can readily be detected, and that at a concentration of 150 parts of sulphur dioxide to one million parts of air the air becomes unbearable, some idea can be gained of the life of a canister even under adverse mill conditions.

In addition to their use in the sulphite mill, these masks are of great assistance in the bleach room, where they are worn continuously during the mixing of the bleach liquor. Aside from monetary considerations, the increased comfort and safety of the workmen is sufficient argument in favor of the addition of gas masks to the regular mill equipment.

(Not for publication)

Masks for protection against sulphur dioxide may be obtained from any of the following firms:

The Mine Safety Appliance Co.,
Chamber of Commerce Bldg.,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

The Industrial Safety Corp.,
102 Fulton St.,
New York City

The La France Fire Engine Co.,
250 W. 54th St.,
New York City