What conclusion does the author draw about noise and health in this piece?

Many people in industry and the Services, who have practical experience with noise, regard any investigation of this question as a waste of time; they are not prepared even to admit the possibility that noise affects people.

On the other hand, those who dislike noise will sometimes use the most inadequate evidence to support their pleas for a quieter society.

This is a pity, because noise abatement is a good cause, and it is likely to be discredited if it gets to be associated with bad science.

One allegation often made is that noise produces mental illness.

A recent article in a weekly newspaper, for instance, was headed with a striking illustration of a lady in a state of considerable distress, with the caption ‘She was yet another victim, reduced to a screaming wreck’.

On turning eagerly to the text, one learns that the lady was a typist who found the sound of office typewriters worried her more and more until eventually, she had to go into a mental hospital.

Now, the snag in this sort of anecdote i, of course, that one cannot distinguish cause and effect.

Was the noise a cause of the illness, or were the noise complaints merely a symptom?

Another patient might equally well complain that her neighbors were combining to slander her and persecute her, and yet one might be cautious about believing this statement.

What is needed in the case of noise is a study of large numbers of people living under noisy conditions, to discover whether they are mentally ill more often than other people are.

Some time ago, the United States Navy, for instance, examined a very large number of men working on aircraft carriers; the study was known as Project Anehin.

It can be unpleasant to live even several miles from an aerodrome; if you think what it must be like to share the deck of a ship with several squadrons of jet aircraft, you will realize that a modern navy is a good place to study noise.

However, neither psychiatric interviews nor objective tests were able to show any effects on these American sailors.

This result merely confirms earlier American and British studies: if there is any effect of noise on mental health, it must be so small that present methods of psychiatric diagnosis cannot find it.

That does not prove that it does not exist, but it does mean that noise is less dangerous than, say, being brought up in an orphanage, which is a mental health hazard.

He means that the whole idea of reducing or getting rid of noise (in the modern world) is a good aim, which is likely to lose people’s support if the arguments for it become associated with inexact or unsupported scientific arguments.

A modern navy is a good place to study noise because the noise of jet aircraft on an aircraft carrier must be one of the most unpleasant environments you could think of in which to work, for noise, that is.

The police immediately began an investigation into the murder of the old man.

Even when they thought they had the right man, they realized they had inadequate evidence on which to charge him.

The noise has increased so much near their local airport that they are starting a noise abatement society.

The prisoner made a serious allegation of cruelty against the men who arrested him.

It’s a beautiful sweater; the only snag is, I can’t afford it.

I am always extremely cautious about what I read in that particular newspaper.

At this time of the year, ice on the roads is a real hazard.

Although many people do not believe that noise affects people’s health, those who campaign for noise abatement unfortunately sometimes use inadequate evidence to support their case.

It is often alleged that noise produces mental illness, and a woman has claimed that the noise of office typewriters eventually sent her to a mental hospital.

The problem with this argument is that it is extremely difficult to distinguish between cause and effect; in other words, did the noise cause her mental illness, or were her complaints about noise merely a symptom?

Most people in this modern world have grown accustomed to living and working against a background of noise, almost constant noise.

In the street, there is the noise of traffic, engine noises, car alarms, and the screeching of tires and brakes. In factories, there is the continual drumming of machines of all kinds,

And in the office, there is the noise of office equipment, the tap tap tap of computer keyboard keys, the ringing of telephones, fax machines, and so on.

Even in the home, where labor saving devices have made life so much easier for many people, some of the comfort has been at the expense of noise—vacuum cleaners, washing machines, dishwashers, and air extractors; they all make a noise, even if manufacturers try to tell us sometimes that their machines are ‘silent’!

And even in the countryside, or in your back garden in the city, there are always airplanes overhead—large passenger jet aircraft, helicopters, and even, sometimes, military jet aircraft.

In our modern industrial society, hardly anywhere is free from noise.

In towns and cities, particularly, the problem has become acute.

And yet people have learned to live against this background and do not seem to be affected.

Indeed, some people even seem to require noise as a necessary environment in which to work: ‘muzak’ in the workplace, in shops, and in hotels is a perfect example of the need for ‘noise’, for that is all ‘muzak’ is.

We seem to be helpless to do anything about reducing noise in this modern world, and many have come to accept it as one of the more unpleasant features of modern civilization.

And although few of us complain about it, this is one of the main reasons that people give for going to an island, the countryside, the hills or the mountains for the weekend, or for their annual holiday, ‘To get away from everything, especially the noise’.

Many roads that we use were not built for such heavy traffic.

The heavy snow that fell last week has now begun to melt.

The party of tourists that we had in our hotel over the weekend left this morning.

The clerk who took the original telephone call apologized for the mistake.

A large animal frequently seen near our village has proved to be a black panther.

One ridiculous argument sometimes heard is that failure is a necessary part of progress.

One sight generally considered worth visiting is the old church on the cliffs.

Have you written back to your pen-friend yet?

I haven’t told them about the concert yet.

I don’t know how many old girlfriends he has, but Gail is yet another in a long line.

On opening the door, I got a surprise.

On seeing me approaching, he ran towards me.

On being asked to leave the meeting, he got very angry.

On arriving at the station, she bought a ticket.

At the sight of the bank robbers with their guns, the girl was reduced to a quivering jelly.

The police are still trying to establish the cause of the accident.

The local Health Officer has received lots of complaints about the standard of hygiene in that café.

Most spokesmen for government departments are extremely cautious about saying anything that can be understood too easily.

At the youth hostel, Karla had to share a room with a girl she had never met.

It’s been said that such horrific sights on television news can have dreadful effects on young children.

Modern methods of tracing the source of a disease do not always seem to be very effective.

I don’t regard a degree as a meal ticket for life.

Just look at those children picking apples.

This hay fever is seriously affecting my work.

This hay fever is having a serious effect on my work.

The accused man entered a plea of Not Guilty.

I only got married to please my parents.

I need an objective opinion from someone who is not involved.

The objective of this meeting is to decide who will represent us on the Planning Committee.

If no one has any objection, I’ll declare the meeting closed.

I can confirm that the door was located.

I went back to assure myself that I had locked the door.

It does mean that noise is less dangerous than, say, being brought up in an orphanage—which really is a mental health hazard.

The question was recently brought up in Parliament.

The boxer was knocked out in the first round. It took a long time to bring him around.

The whole scene brought back the days of my childhood.

Their wonderful performance brought down the house.

Can you bring to mind what happened on the fourth of July?

Difficult conditions will sometimes bring out a man’s best qualities.

The reduction of noise is a good cause, and it’s important to prevent it from getting a bad name.

Stories like the one about the typist do not help us to understand the effects of noise.

Project Anehin provided an opportunity to study the effects of noise on a large number of people.

Project Anehin proved that noise doesn’t appear to have any bad effects.

Eventually, she was obliged to go into a mental hospital.

What is needed is a study of large numbers to discover if they are ill.

Noise is not as dangerous as being brought up in an orphanage.

Noise abatement could probably be discredited.

In the end, she had to go into a mental hospital.

This result merely verifies earlier American and British studies.