MINUTES OF THE ASBESTOS TEXTILE INSTITUTE'S
AIR HYGIENE AND MANUFACTURING COMMITTEE

June 8, 1961

In Attendance:

W. C. Atkinson - Johns-Manville Corp., Manville, N. J.
D. T. Austin - United States Rubber Co., Hogansville, Ga.
L. D. Horowitz - Keasbey & Mattison Co., Ambler, Pa.
J. L. Mitchell - H. K. Porter Co., Inc., Charlotte, N. C.
H. E. Palm - Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc., Manheim, Pa.
C. L. Sheckler - Johns-Manville Corp., New York, N. Y.
R. B. Smith - Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc., No. Chas., S. C.
Hans Walter - American Asbestos Corp., Norristown, Pa.

Guest:

Mr. John McGinley - Keasbey & Mattison; Dr. Meyers - American Asbestos Textile Corp; Dr. Ken Smith - Johns-Manville; Dr. Strabler - Keasbey & Mattison

AMERICAN INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE ASSOCIATION MEETING:

You may remember that Mr. Benjamin F. Postman was to present a paper on dust control for asbestos processing operations at this meeting, which was held in Detroit during the month of April. Mr. Postman was sick and his paper was presented by some one else. The consensus of opinion was that although we were not entirely successful in changing his opinions of us, we did make some progress with him at our last meeting. It was reported by one of our members that while Mr. Postman did portray some of his environmental control problems with illustrations from small asbestos textile manufacturers who had made very little progress in dust control, he contrasted this with the excellent results obtained by larger manufacturers such as are represented in our Institute. His basic plea, of course, was that the job of control was possible and therefore more effort should be made by all in accomplishing adequate control.

While discussing this, Mr. Mitchell stated that a paper on their plant's dust control would be published in the July issue of "Archives of Environmental Health." Copies of this article will be distributed to the committee members when they are available. He also stated that Dr. Wilson of the North Carolina State Board of Health is currently doing research work to determine if there is any connection between Asbestosis and Cancer. This report will also be distributed to the committee members when available.

DUST COUNTING TECHNIQUES:

Under this topic each member brought a copy of their technique to this meeting. It was decided, in order to save time, that we would only discuss

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one member's report. This was done and involved quite a discussion, as was anticipated. All of these reports will be reproduced and distributed to each committee member for their information and comparison in the near future. After reviewing these various techniques, we will endeavor to establish an A.T.I. approved dust counting and sampling technique to be used by all member companies.

GENERAL ENGINEERING TOPICS:

One member distributed photographs of their brush wetting arrangement on a new loom they have recently installed, this is being used in lieu of an automatic spray system as is used by some other members. The brush revolves in a pan of water and sprinkles droplets of water upon the yarns as they enter the loom. The brush is driven from the loom and only revolves when the loom is weaving.

He also presented pictures and a drawing of their "Drag-Conveyor" system which is now in production at his plant. This system conveys blended fibers from his blending location to the boxes for delivery to the Card Room. The dust system on this conveyor was also described along with it's operation.

Both of these topics received lively discussions and it is this exchange of development information which is beneficial to the members in attendance.

MEDICAL TOPICS:

A good portion of the afternoon was spent in a joint session of the committees listening to a talk by Dr. Kenneth Smith who is the Medical Director of Johns-Manville. Dr. Smith spoke on a proposed survey of the Asbestos Industry by the United States Department of Public Health Service. This survey would establish an impartial report proving whether there is a connection between Asbestosis and Cancer.

After this talk we returned to our committee room and the three doctors present discussed their Physical Examination Routines which they conduct at their plants. All three of these plants conduct about the same pre-employment examinations including an X-ray, but one plant has a complete physical examination for all employees every year while another has this every three years and the other plant does not have a re-examination at all. All three give re-examinations to employees upon re-employment and all three conduct annual X-ray examinations of all their personnel.

This was very interesting and a multitude of questions arose, as you may well imagine. The companies not reported upon will be done so by their members at our next meeting.

Our committee presented two recommendations to the Board of Governors for their action.

1st Recommendation was that the Board of Governors contact our companies for authorization to ask the United States Public Health Service to conduct the discussed survey concerning Asbestosis and Cancer.

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2nd Recommendation was that the Board of Governors create a sub-committee composed of our company doctors and that they meet together at least once a year for an exchange of medical information.

The action taken by the Board of Governors on both of these recommendations was that they would ballot each member company for their reaction and vote.

We received a copy of the 3rd Annual Report of The Asbestosis Research Council of England, however because of a full agenda we were unable to discuss it. We are including it as part of our minutes however, and it appears following immediately after our proposed agenda for our September meeting. It will also be placed on this forthcoming agenda for discussion at that time.

AGENDA FOR SEPTEMBER 7, 1961 MEETING IN NEW YORK:

1. Discussion of our Dust Counting Techniques.
2. Remaining Companies Physical Examination Routines and Comments.
3. Dust Collecting Equipment and the Problems Involved.
4. General Engineering Topics.
5. Discussion of the 3rd Annual Report of The Asbestosis Research Council of England.

Respectfully submitted

Ralph B. Smith,
Chairman
Air Hygiene and Manufacturing
Committee.

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