Research & Engineering Center
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REPORT OF TRIP TO TURNER BROS.
ASBESTOS CO., LTD.
REPORT NO. 1 OF 2
GENERAL AND HEALTH PROBLEMS

General

Turner Bros. is a company employing 5,000 people in several plants, the largest being in Rochdale and the Hundley-Green plant about twenty miles away. They manufacture asbestos textiles, sheeter materials, asbestos fabrics for brake lining and clutch facings, rubber rings, conveyor belting, V-belts, and fibre glass rovings which they weave into a cloth. The size of their operation may be appreciated from the fact that at Rochdale I saw a textile operation with 103 cards producing 70-90 lbs. per hour of yarn each. They had four fibre preparation systems each with a capacity of 3,000 lbs. per hour.

At Hundley-Green, the building, in which rubber rings and conveyor belts are made, has a floor area of 300,000 sq. ft.

The Turner Bros. company is a part of the Turner-Newall group, which employs 40,000 people, has yearly sales of about $300,000,000 and profits of about $22,000,000.

I spent a full week visiting at Rochdale and Hundley-Green. A program was prepared for my visit and faithfully followed. It is appended to the report as Enclosure 1. Enclosure 2 shows a list of some of the people whom I met and with whom I discussed numerous subjects of common interest.

In the interest of clarity, I have divided my report into two parts, this one on health problems and a second on production facilities.

Background of English Health Activities

Health activities in English asbestos factories date from 1931 when the Asbestos Industry Regulations were formulated. These regulations were spurred by a report issued in 1930 by Dr. Merewether, which showed that 80.9% of workers with 20 years or more service in the asbestos industries

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