S61-85

Manville Internal Correspondence

To See Below* Date. Feb. 6, 1985

From Lois Gaul Lois

Copies File/Chrono

Subject **Abstracts of World Medicine**

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Abstracts of World Medicine was published monthly by the British Medical Association, London, "to provide the reader with a selection of abstracts of the more important articles appearing in medical periodicals published in different parts of the world." C.U. Medical Library had volumes 1 to 45 (1947-1971) and all were reviewed. I did not check the Union List of Serials to see if publication continued after 1971.

The abstracts are grouped into subject areas, such as lung diseases, respiratory disorders, pathology, morbid anatomy, radiodiagnosis, and the like. There is also a section on industrial medicine. In all of these sections citations of interest in asbestos health litigation could be found and were checked against the holdings in the HS&E library. Most of these articles are familiar ones, although in many cases it is helpful to have the English summary of foreign-language reports. Of special interest:

1. Desmeules, R., et al., Asbestosis and cancer of the lung, Semaine de Hopital, Paris 23: 1820-1823, August 1947. The abstracter, an H.E. Harding, notes that the authors' "claim that carcinoma of the lung with asbestosis has been recorded before in only 1 case cannot be allowed."

2. Frost, J., Georg, J. and Moller, P.F., Asbestosis with pleural calcification among insulation workers, Danish Medical Bulletin 3:202-204, November 1956. The abstracter, A. Meiklejohn, states that "experience in many countries has established that workmen employed in the lagging of pipes and boilers may contract pneumoconiosis in the course of their employment."

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3. Braun, D.C. and Truan, T.D., An epidemiological study of lung cancer in asbestos miners. A.M.A. Archives of Industrial Health 17: 634-658, June 1958. Richard Doll, the abstracter, comments on the negative findings of this study by stating: "It may be noted that the asbestos mined in the area studied is chrysotile, whereas the type most commonly associated with asbestosis is hornblende."

4. Scansetti, G. and Rubino, G.F., Comparative study of cardiovascular and respiratory involvement in pulmonary asbestosis, Minerva Medica 51: 8-17, January 1960. Even at this late date, the reviewer, W.K. Dunscombe, uses the phrase, "the alleged association between asbestosis and cancer of the lung".

5. Cordova, J.F., Tesluk, H. and Knudtson, K.P., Asbestosis and carcinoma of the lung, Cancer 15: 1181-1187, November-December 1962. The authors state that in 4 of their eleven cases there was "no known history of direct exposure to asbestos dust" (occupations of these 4 are listed in the published paper as ironworker, shipyard worker, carpenter and insulation worker). The abstracter, L.W. Hale, comments: "It is recognized that asbestos is being used in many apparently innocent materials--for example, wallboard, insulating fabrics, ropes, and plaster-of-paris."

Please let me know if you wish to see the entire abstract of any of these references.

LAG/ofk