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[UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR]
JAMES J. DAVIS, Secretary
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS
ETHELBERT STEWART, Commissioner

[MONTHLY LABOR REVIEW]

VOLUME 30 NUMBER 2

[FEBRUARY, 1930]

UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON : 1930

...sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C. . . . . Price 15 Cents per Copy
Subscription Price per Year: United States, Canada, Mexico, $1.50; Other Countries, $2.25

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Pulmonary Disease Caused by Asbestos Dust[1]

THE extraction and manufacture of asbestos involves the constant exposure of the workers to asbestos dust. The long fibers of asbestos are used in the textile industry for the manufacture of cloth, braid, rope, theater curtains, and for finishing pistons for steam engines, and the shorter fibers are used in the manufacture of felt, paper, cardboard, varnishes, cements, and rubber tires. Asbestos is also used as an electrical insulator, in the manufacture of tiles, planks, paneling, and exterior covering for buildings, mattresses, heat-insulating gloves, firemen's clothes, laboratory equipment, etc. Its use has grown rapidly in the past 20 years and the fact that all processes from extraction onward involve a considerable hazard, makes essential the installation of efficient exhaust systems and the introduction of other safety measures.

A digest of an article in a recent issue of Tubercle, published in the Bulletin of Hygiene, London, December, 1929, gives the results of a study of the clinical and radiological record of 15 cases of pulmonary asbestosis occurring among workers in an asbestos factory.

The dust from asbestos produces a form of pneumonoconiosis, of which the principal symptom is dyspnea (difficult or labored breathing), accompanied in most cases by a cyanosis in which the skin assumes a slightly leaden hue. The chest expansion may be reduced to one inch or even less but cough and expectoration are usually not present to any great extent. The physical signs are a bilateral pulmonary fibrosis attacking the bases of the lungs and, as frequently happens in cases of silicosis, pulmonary tuberculosis may supervene and modify the clinical picture.

In regard to the X-ray findings, the article states that the—

> Most noticeable feature of the skiagram is the presence of shadows suggestive of a diffuse fibrosis of the lower two-thirds of the lungs. The fine ground-glass quality of the shadows is noteworthy and the bronchial striations may give a cobweblike appearance to the film. As these striations radiate outward from the lung roots they cut the edge of the cardiac shadow, especially on the left side, giving a shaggy appearance as if the heart were encased in coarse lace. When more definite mottling is present it lacks the coarse quality seen in the skiagrams of other forms of pneumonoconiosis. Other features are signs of old basal pleurisy, obliteration of costo-phrenic angle, thickening of the apical pleural cap. Post mortem, the diagnostic feature which serves to distinguish the condition from other forms of pneumonoconiosis is the presence in the lungs of golden yellow foreign bodies with segmented outline and clubbed extremities bearing a superficial resemblance to minute crustacean forms.

[1] International Labor Office. Occupation and Health Brochure No. 27. Geneva, 1928.

INDUST

The Foreman's

By H. W. Heinrich, Assist
tion Divis

SEVENTY-FIVE years as a divisional railr a month. His authority He was ambitious, howev mastered every detail of t acquired a comprehensive railway system. One mo division was late in arriv dent had occurred. Imm By virtue of his thorough grasped the situation at o to assume responsibility, h one track on this partic for the express, which ha to the conductor of the ex 40 minutes of express tim then wired to the condu clearing up a situation th and loss of revenue.

The subsequent progre the business would were creasingly important pos of responsibility is a vital an employer (giving profit a financial power, a sto endowed charitable and e ripe age in 1919, was mou

The biographies of emi are replete with illustrat to-day—Hoover, Schwab, a host of others—believe Dodging responsibility or known quality in the "The authority to issue that it is properly executed

One of the many succe capacities as foremen or said: "Good managemen

[1] Speech delivered at the Seventh a

"Pulmonary Disease Caused by Asbestos Dust," Monthly Labor Review (1930)
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Published by AsbestosClaims.Law
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