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MINUTES OF THE ASBESTOS TEXTILE INSTITUTE'S
AIR HYGIENE AND MANUFACTURING COMMITTEE
March 3, 1960

In Attendance:

W. C. Atkinson - Johns-Manville Corp., Manville, N. J.
J. E. Cerny - Tallman-McCluskey Co., Kirkwood, Mo.
H. M. Jackson - Johns-Manville Corp., New York, N. Y.
J. L. Mitchell - H. K. Porter Co., Inc., Charlotte Works
Charlotte, N. C.
H. E. Palm - Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc., Manheim, Pa.
R. B. Smith - Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc., No. Chas., S. C.
Hans Walter - American Asbestos Corp., Norristown, Pa.

The following items were discussed:

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SURVEY:

During the discussion of this subject it was stated that one member company's insurance carrier had just completed a study of their entire health records and as yet the results had not been announced, but when available they would be presented to the committee. This company also reported that recent X-rays revealed that they now have only seven cases of first stage Asbestosis (each case having been employed for 15 years or longer), this can be compared to eighty-five cases which were evident in 1936. This is "Living Proof" that dust removing systems have and are now benefiting all concerned.

This topic also revealed the fact that there are four (4) members now conducting yearly X-rays of all of their employees. These records will prove to be invaluable in future years.

Several member companies are also conducting and encouraging Group Visitations through their plants, such as Occupational Health Study Groups and Student Nurses' Classes. This type of visitation is to be encouraged and permitted to expand throughout the medical profession so that they may see first hand the progress that has and is being made with the health of our employees.

A review of the factors which would be involved in an environmental health survey was presented, which included both the amount of work and the benefits which would result from a survey of this type. This will be investigated more completely and discussed at our next meeting.

COMPARISON OF DUST SAMPLING EQUIPMENT:

Johns-Manville Corp. is still conducting a comparison between the Standard and the Midget Greenberg-Smith Impinger for us. The results of this comparison will be presented to the committee when it is completed.

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CRMC-Motley1000-Subj-000596

GENERAL ENGINEERING SUBJECTS:

During this discussion we learned of the experiences which several members have had with their bag dumping equipment. Also discussed at this time was systems used in handling paper bags of fiber as received from the mines at our plants.

We received a copy of the 2nd Annual Report of The Asbestosis Research Council of England. This report was discussed and a copy of it is included at the end of these minutes.

We also received several pieces of correspondence from Dr. J. F. Knox of England which will be answered. One of which stated his desire to meet with this committee when he visits this country in July, this meeting will be arranged with eager anticipation by our members.

PLANT SAFETY PROGRAMS:

This was one of our most time consuming subjects in as much as it involved a complete discussion of our plant accidents for the past year of 1959 and the accident frequency ratings for each plant.

The ratings were as follows: Plant A = 9.3, B = 9.6, C=13.5, D = 12.8, E = 25.9.

These ratings are according to the National Safety Council and are figured on their formula of "number of loss time accidents x one million man-hours + by the total manhours worked". During the discussion of our individual frequency ratings it was realized that a comparison of our ratings would be somewhat misleading since some member companies reported only on Textile Operations while others reported for the entire plant which included Finishing, Shipping, Maintenance Departments etc. However, the description of these accidents was the important item in this discussion. We also discussed the functions of each Plant Safety Program and the composition of their Safety Committees.

This entire subject was received with such enthusiasm that the committee decided to make it an annual item at every March meeting when the results for the previous year can be discussed.

AGENDA FOR JUNE 6, 1960 MEETING IN CANADA:

1. Safety Equipment that is required at each plant.
2. Report of progress on comparison of Dust Sampling Equipment.
3. Continued discussions of Dust Collecting Equipment and Systems.
4. Discussion of New Manufacturing Equipment which has become available.
5. Continued review of the factors involved in the Environmental Health Survey.

Respectfully submitted,

Ralph B. Smith, Chairman
Air Hygiene and Manufacturing Committee

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# ASBESTOSIS RESEARCH COUNCIL

## SECOND ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS BEGINNING 1ST OCTOBER, 1958

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

The Asbestosis Research Council was established on the 1st October, 1957. This report details the activities sponsored by the Council during the second year of its operation.

### 2. APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

There have been no applications.

### 3. COMMITTEES

The work of the Council has continued under the guidance of the Management Committee and the Research Committee. The membership of these Committees during the year was -

(a) Management Committee

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Chairman: | Sir William Fenton | British Belting & Asbestos Ltd. |
| | Mr. R. Barber | " " " " " |
| | Mr. T. C. Hale | Cape Asbestos Co., Ltd. |
| | Mr. A. A. Cross | " " " " |
| | Mr. N. A. Morling | Turner Brothers Asbestos Co. Ltd. |
| | Mr. J. Waddell | " " " " " |
| Secretary: | Mr. D. W. Hills | " " " " " |
| Followed by | Dr. S. Holmes | " " " " " |

The Management Committee met in London on 29th October, 1958.

(b) Research Committee

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Chairman: | Dr. J. F. Knox | Turner Brothers Asbestos Co. Ltd. |
| | Dr. C. G. Addingley | British Belting & Asbestos Ltd. |
| | Dr. W. H. A. Beverley | " " " " " |
| | Dr. R. Gaze | Cape Asbestos Co. Ltd. |
| | Dr. W. J. Smither | " " " " |
| | Mr. E. L. Dawson | Turner Brothers Asbestos Co. Ltd. |
| Secretary: | Mr. D. W. Hills | " " " " " |
| Followed by | Dr. S. Holmes | " " " " " |

Executive Member: Dr. J. F. Knox

The Research Committee met four times; at Cambridge on 15th December, 1958 and 28th September, 1959, at Reading on 13th April, 1959, and in London on 29th June, 1959.

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ACL Doc 12937 · Page 3 of 5 asbestosclaims.law/library/12937/3

4. FINANCE

(a) Banking Arrangements

The finances of the Council have continued to be administered through an account operated by the Rochdale branch of the District Bank.

(b) Research Committee Budget and Expenditure

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|---|---|---|---|
| Research Budget | £5000. | -s. | -d. |
| Research Expenditure | £4154. | 19s. | 2d. |

It should be noted that the sum of £350. -s. -d. was set aside for a microscope for the Council's work at Cambridge. This has been ordered and delivery is expected shortly. Further, the sum of £500. -s. -d. voted for work on "The Physics of Asbestos Dust Clouds" has not been drawn upon.

Full details of the Council's Income and Expenditure are given in Appendix 1.

5. LIAISON WITH THE FACTORY DEPARTMENT AND THE AIR HYGIENE COMMITTEE

In accordance with Management Committee Minute No. 16(d), edited versions of the First Annual Report were forwarded to the Factory Department and to the Air Hygiene Committee (U.S.A.). One of the member Companies of the latter committee has since shown interest in the Ottway Dust Sampler and details have been forwarded.

6. RESEARCH PROGRESS

The research work of the Council has continued under the direction of Dr. P. F. Holt at Reading and Dr. J. Beattie at Cambridge. Brief summaries of this work are given below. Full reports appear in Appendices 2 & 3.

(a) Work at Reading

During the year the work has been transferred to a new laboratory and animal house. This has inevitably resulted in some dislocation, but the new facilities are far superior to the old.

The apparatus for maintaining an asbestos dust cloud has been developed to the stage when it will maintain a dust cloud of a fairly steady concentration automatically. Conditions can be varied to produce a completely fibrous or completely non-fibrous dust cloud as required.

The animal experiments have been delayed pending the development of the dust machine to a satisfactory stage. These experiments are now in progress.

In order to measure the total dust exposure during animal experiments, work has been directed towards the development of a satisfactory mass sampler, based on a volatile filter. For snap sampling, a photoelectric monitor has been obtained, and efforts are being made to increase its sensitivity.

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ACL Doc 12937 · Page 4 of 5 asbestosclaims.law/library/12937/4

(b) Work at Cambridge

Data on the mineral content and particle size distribution in lung material from 50 cases of exposure to asbestos dust at Rochdale has been collected together in the form of a report. Work is also proceeding to ascertain whether non-fibrous dust plays any part in the genesis of asbestosis.

Chromatographic examination of asbestosis body material has suggested strongly that the protein envelope consists of collagen. The pattern of laying down of the protein is now to be considered as this will give information of the mechanism of rupture of the envelope prior to the fracture of the fibre.

Experiments on the injection of asbestosis bodies into the brains of animals have continued. It has been shown that sterile chrysotile fibres can result in the formation of asbestosis bodies within six months and that mature but unsegmented bodies do not product any marked effects. The results on the injection of fragmented bodies are so far inconclusive. The work continues and has been extended to amosite and crocidolite fibres.

7. DUST SAMPLING AND ANALYSIS

Continued experience of the Ottway instrument has shown that the dust count obtained in a steady concentration is dependent upon the sampling time. Evidence of this has been obtained by all three Member Companies but users of the instrument who are interested in non-fibrous dusts have not experienced this difficulty. No simple reason for the phenomenon has been discovered and it is likely that the matter will not be resolved until more is known on the physics of asbestos dust clouds.

Work on mass sampling by membrane filters has commenced.

8. RESEARCH COMMITTEE'S COMMENTS

The Research Committee feels that good progress has been made during the year, but the rate of progress has been hampered by limitations of manpower. Approval has already been given for the provision of extra assistance for Dr. Holt at Reading and the new arrangements will come into force on 1st October, 1959. It is felt that in addition to expediting Dr. Holt's programme of work, this appointment will enable a start to be made on investigating the physics of asbestos dust clouds. Further proposals for expansion of the Council's Research Programme are under consideration.



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ACL Doc 12937 · Page 5 of 5 asbestosclaims.law/library/12937/5