ASBESTOS TEXTILE INSTITUTE

Air Hygiene Committee Meeting

June 9, 1954

The committee discussed information concerning asbestos appropriate for dissemination to interested industrial hygiene and health personnel. The following points were agreed upon and a tentative write-up will be forwarded to the Board of Governors for review.

1. Differentiation of asbestosis and silicosis.
2. Bibliography on asbestosis.
3. Medical control - preplacement and periodic examination.
4. Engineering control.
5. Environmental survey and evaluation.

A statistical evaluation of the data resulting from the industrial hygiene survey program was discussed. In summary, although the 210X magnification reveals more fibres than the 100X magnification - the ratio is constant to a significant degree. Therefore, the present standard technique (100X magnification) will give valid indication of the relative fiber content of survey samples. The charts and interpretation are attached.

D. R. Holmes reported that Dr. Theodos has been working on two areas of research: the relationship of the heart to asbestosis and the effects of Intermittent Positive Pressure Breathing on asbestosis. It was the consensus of the committee (later approved by the Board of Governors) that Dr. Theodos be invited to present his papers to the doctors at our next meeting.

A review of techniques and problems in the use of fibre conditioners was made. Written reports of each members experience have been forwarded to Dr. Shaw for use in his investigation of fibre conditioning techniques.

New Jersey State Department of Labor has not accepted the recommendation of its Standards and Codes Committee in regards to asbestos exposures. There is no reference to a maximum allowable concentration for asbestos in the revised code. This action resulted primarily because the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienist continues to specify limits for asbestos in terms of dust instead of fibre. It points up the need for further information and valid records pertaining to the incidence and exposures involved in asbestosis.

It was urged that autopsies be obtained in as many instances as possible. The procedure for the study of such by Saranac Laboratory will be reviewed at the next meeting with the doctors. Several members made inquiry concerning air hygiene sampling services - since state agencies are not available for frequent checks.

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Recommended were:

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Mr. J. M. Fehnel* P.O. Box 172 Central Station
Jamaica 35, New York

For the next meeting each member agreed to report on the design and effectiveness of dust control at the winders.

H. H. Jackson

*formerly of Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. - Industrial Health Laboratory

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