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Mr. W. E. Shoemaker, Upper Darby Division Engineering January 30, 1962

J. B. Skinner/mc H. O. Engineering

KEASBEY AND MATTISON COMPANY
Ambler, Pennsylvania
Lung Cancer

Since you have gone through the various Industrial Hygiene Digests I assume that you probably, in doing so, have taken note of the papers which would have been published in the Archives of Industrial Hygiene and the Quarterly. I did look through my files and found a few things which might possibly be of interest. For example, on October 28, 1953 I attended a Symposium on Occupational Diseases of the Lungs and there was some reference in that meeting to the possibility of there being a connection between asbestosis and lung cancer. The Symposium was directed primarily to asbestosis and was sponsored in part by the Johns-Manville Company. Dr. Lynch of the Medical College of South Carolina indicated that there had been sufficient numbers of carcinoma of the lung cases in asbestotics to indicate that there is probably some causal relationship. On the other hand, Dr. Cartier of the Thetford Industrial Clinic, Thetford Mines, Quebec, pointed out that there had been some four lung cancer cases among forty deaths in their workers. He pointed out that in the same period of time, however, there had been seven cases of lung cancer in the general population.

One of the papers given at the McIntyre-Saranac Conference by Dr. A. I. G. McLaughlin, entitled "The Dust Diseases in Great Britain", contained the statement: "The connection between asbestosis and cancer of the lung is becoming clearer, and in one series of 100 autopsies on asbestosis cases there were 25 cases of cancer of the lung."

I note that the October, 1960 issue of the American Journal of Public Health contains an article on lung cancer mortalities of men in certain occupations in California, by John E. Dunn, Jr., M.D., George Linden and Lester Breslow, pages 1475 to 1487. Asbestos workers are included in the group studied. This study also included such considerations as the cigarette-smoking habits of the people involved. The study seems to indicate that asbestos workers are not unduly exposed to the lung cancer hazard. It is pointed out in this article that cigarette smoking is such a big factor in the development of lung cancer that it makes studies such as these rather difficult. This may be of some encouragement to Keasbey & Mattison.

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Another paper by California investigators appeared in the February, 1954 issue of the American Journal of Public Health, entitled "Occupations and Cigarette Smoking as Factors in Lung Cancer". This is an older paper that does not mention asbestos workers in the study but it may be of some interest to Keasbey & Mattison. The only other reference I have encountered is in Drinker and Hatch, which states that the 1947 report of the Chief Inspector of Factories states that of 235 cases of asbestos autopsied from 1924 to 1946 31, or 13.2%, were complicated by carcinoma of the lung or pleura. Only 1.32% of the silicotics who were autopsied had cancer of the lung. This latter rate is about the same as the 1946 census in the United States.

At the last Saranac Symposium there were some Canadian papers indicating that the incidence of carcinoma of the lung has increased in asbestos workers. Unfortunately the proceedings of that last Symposium were never published and therefore the papers given at that Symposium have been lost.

I hope that these additional references may be of some assistance to you and to Mr. Horowitz.

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