

FILE NAME: Metropolitan Life (ML)

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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Memos Regarding Physical Exams, X-Rays, Pneumoconiosis & Proposed Study of Heart Function in Asbestosis

Date: 11/30

Title: Report of the Physical Examinations and X-Ray Examination of Asbestos Workers in Asbestos Workers in Asbestos and Thetford Mines, Quebec

Author: Pedley

Receiver:

Comments:

Examination of 141 Asbestos Employees and 51 Thetford Mines Employees.

"[A]sbestosis is not likely to develop with an exposure of less than five years, but that with exposure of more than 10 years there is a great possibility of it developing."

"In general it may be said that the hazard of pneumoconiosis in the asbestos mining and milling industry has been demonstrated, but evidently the disease does not incapacitate to any degree and apparently it is not particularly associated with tuberculosis."

ASBESTOS TEXTILE INSTITUTE

AIR HYGIENE COMMITTEE

Report of Meeting dated 10/6/54

Members Present:

R. B. Smith
J. W. Weber
B. W. Luttenberger
D. R. Holmes

Doctors Present:

Dr. K. W. Smith - Johns-Manville
Dr. E. S. Myers - American Asbestos
Dr. D. W. Martin - Raybestos-Manhattan
Dr. H. W. Hetherington - Keasbey & Mattison
Dr. O. A. Sanders - Southern Asbestos
Dr. G. W. H. Schepers - Medical Director, Saranac Laboratory
Dr. P. A. Theodos - representing Asten-Hill
Dr. H. White - representing Asten-Hill

The meeting began promptly at 9:30 A.M. with D. R. Holmes acting as Chairman. The chair commented he was pleased to see the large turnout of representative doctors.

1. The meeting got under way with an explanation by Dr. Theodos of his Research Program Proposal of heart function to asbestosis. A copy of Dr. Theodos' proposal is enclosed and is to be included in the minutes. In conjunction with this proposal, Dr. Theodos advised that the cost to a Company for an employee to participate in this program would run about \$250.00 to \$300.00 on a semi-private basis with a maximum of \$500.00 as the ceiling which should include hospitalization, transportation, etc. However, he advised that most Companies could have this service performed by using their hospitalization program if one is available. Dr. Theodos in the past, with our Company and with American Asbestos, has classified the diagnosis to be pulmonary fibrosis. When completing the hospitalization forms, this has worked out in every case and the Insurance Company has paid claims without comment. Also in these cases, one question is to be answered on the insurance form; "Is accident, illness or disease caused by the occupation?" and we have always had this answered, "No". It has never been challenged by the Insurance Company.

Under this program, Dr. Theodos would like to have about fifty patients take this treatment in one year's time. This would average one a week from some Company.

Dr. Schepers showed slides of specimens taken during an autopsy of an asbestotic. These slides showed the different findings present in the lung area. These slides were very beneficial to all doctors present as many of them saw lung conditions of an asbestotic which they had never seen before. Dr. Schepers' demonstration indicated that when a biopsy is taken the surgeon should cut down low and obtain an area large enough to definitely show whether or not asbestosis was present and to what degree, coupled with clinical findings.