



Fig 9.—Small elastin fiber that has been phagocytosed by a macrophage. Cell cytoplasm immediately surrounding fiber is quite devoid of cell organelles and probably corresponds to pseudopodial ectoplasm ($\times 40,000$).

between any of these structures with the light microscope. Where a mineral fiber is large or pigmented, it may be possible to rule out asbestos as the core, but in many cases this cannot be done. This is especially true of the finest glass fiber which has similar dimensions to asbestos. For this reason electron microscope examination is the only reliable method of distinguishing between the various types

of mineral core in a sample of ferruginous bodies, and even then differentiation is often only possible if an electron diffraction pattern can be obtained from the mineral. Because of these difficulties, it is at present impossible to critically evaluate the finding of ferruginous bodies in members of the normal urban population. It may be that many of these are genuine asbestos bodies, but on the other hand

Arch Path—Vol 89, April 1970

8005 1456

PRODUCED BY FORD