Comparison of the Cohort Experience with that of the Province of Quebec, Dominion of Canada, and the United States

In order to make a comparison of the experience among asbestos miners with that of the general population of the Province of Quebec, statistics were gathered, as stated earlier, in the office of the Division of Demography in the Provincial Ministry of Health. The data on total deaths, deaths from all forms of cancer, and deaths from cancer of the lung were obtained by sex and by county for the years 1950 through 1955. In addition, all death certificates which specified primary cancer of the lung, and all those which indicated lung cancer but did not specify the origin, were examined for the years 1952 through 1955.

Table 16 gives a tabulation of the number of deaths from lung cancer in the Province and in the cohort for the years 1950 through 1955, and shows the annual rate per 100,000 in these segments. It will be noted from the table that the mortality rate for the "proved" cases in the cohort is only slightly higher than the rate for the Province. When the "suspected" cases are included in the calculation, the rate for the cohort rises to 33.8 per 100,000 which is about 50% higher than the rate for the Province. This, it will be recalled from the previous discussion of the effect of the "suspected" cases on the results, approaches but does not exceed the significant level.