

irritation being related to the peculiar filamented structure of the fiber and the associated flexibility, which are possessed by no other foreign body studied. Thus, ignition of chrysotile fibers changed their structure and made them inert although the same fibers, before being heated, produced fibrosis (table 14). Further support for the theory of mechanical irritation is that asbestosis occurs in an organ of high mobility - the lung - and that a fibrous reaction can be produced by injection of asbestos fibers into the peritoneum, where there is also a degree of mobility, but not in other extra-pulmonary organs such as the liver, spleen and subcutaneous tissue.

COMPLICATIONS

The experimental investigations with asbestos minerals were concerned primarily with the effect of the dust on normal tissue but ~~some~~ attention was given to other phases, such as susceptibility to infection. The only experiment in which the effect of asbestos dust on a pulmonary infection was studied was the first inhalation experiment, carried on with King's floats dust. It is unfortunate that, owing to the lack of adequate facilities at that time, infection studies could not be made in the other inhalation experiments also.

Susceptibility to Tuberculous Infection. The development of a tuberculous process initiated at the beginning of exposure to dust, and also of a tuberculous infection superimposed upon an established asbestosis, was described in preceding sections of this paper. It may be stated that