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practice that protective and pre-
effective against environmental
te information on the sources and
it involved and on the population
t of the potential scope of an en-
nal and nonoccupational implica-
distribution pattern of the agent
and production through the sites
nd commercial uses to the homes
, essential to ascertain the various
tive agent might be incorporated
ts might be used. It is important
and degree of environmental pol-
plant vicinity and the zones along
terials. When some or all of such
tual basis is provided for a com-
e workers employed in mines and
the causative agent, and of the
ns having primary and associated
the general population sustaining
n ve shown that only through
pi logic procedures are any
ce and scope of occupational and
otained. The continued insistence
decisions on such aspects can be
sound clinical impression" often
pe from an unpleasant situa-
ofits are properly protected

id types of occupational and non-
of the various occupational and
ng such contacts, therefore, may
equent discussions of the biologic
ed with and produced by the in-
importance of such data is indi-
on of asbestos has increased from
5, to 446,000 metric tons in 1938,
it is still rising (FIGURE 1). The
the principal consuming country
nsequently should have the largest
ional and nonocuppational reasons
an increasing number of sources
of products.

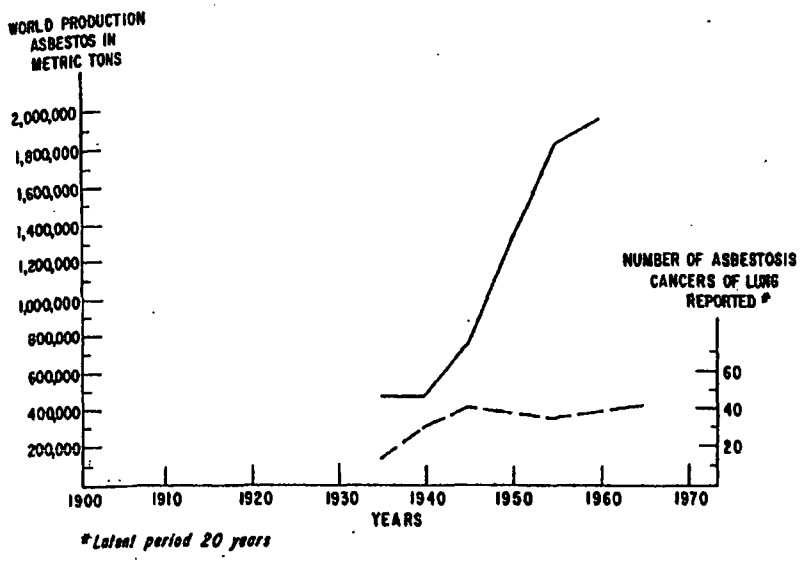


FIGURE 1. World production of asbestos and asbestosis carcinoma of the lung.

Since, of the different types of asbestos, chrysotile represents approximately 95 per cent of the total asbestos produced, contact with this type of asbestos furnishes the chief cause of asbestos pneumoconiosis and cancer in most countries, and especially in the U.S.A. which mainly produces, imports, processes and uses chrysotile.[7-15] Contact with other types of asbestos, particularly amosite and crocidolite, is of comparatively minor and regional importance for occupational reasons because these varieties of asbestos are mainly mined in South Africa and preferably consumed in Great Britain, and represent only a relatively small fraction of the total amount of asbestos produced and used. The exposure data to be given apply, therefore, mainly to chrysotile, although according to Lanza[16,17] all three types of asbestos elicit the same kinds of biologic reactions.

Occupational Activities, Processes and Products with Asbestos Hazards

Asbestosis and asbestos cancer hazards related to an inhalatory exposure to asbestos exist not only for asbestos workers proper engaged in the direct and regular production, processing, handling, and using of asbestos-containing materials, but also for the large number of individuals who may sustain such contacts on an incidental basis. Such persons may be employed permanently or temporarily in or near operations where asbestos and asbestos products are produced or handled and where they inhale,