crocidolite is a greater cancer hazard for man than exposure to amosite and chrysotile, it would be premature to decide until further investigations of the populations actually exposed have been carried out.

For example, Roe and Walters[5] recently pointed out that tobacco smoking is so strongly associated with lung cancer that it has to be taken into account in all studies of possible associations between the disease and other factors. In Britain there is a 45-fold difference in lung cancer incidence between nonsmokers and heavy cigarette smokers.[6] By comparison the three-fold difference observed by Oettlé[4] is small.

Oettlé's work was based on certification of death and involved no matching with regard to smoking habits nor exposure to many of the other known carcinogens involved in the etiology of lung cancer. The figures therefore, can be regarded as confirmatory only. At least they indicate that even before the risk of mesothelioma became widely recognized, an increased mortality from cancer of the lung was being recorded in the asbestos mining districts of the North-Western Cape.

TABLE 1*
PRODUCTION OF ASBESTOS (IN THOUSANDS OF TONS) FROM THE NORTH-WESTERN CAPE AND TRANSVAAL AREAS IN SOUTH AFRICA

Years	Transvaal		North-Western Cape
	amosite	crocidolite	crocidolite
1928-1935	35	0.1	31
1936-1943	118	13	49
1944-1951	237	48	85
1952-1959	446	126	345

*From Keep, 1961.[7]

Oettlé also suggested that asbestos might not have been mined on a sufficiently large scale for a sufficiently long time for an excessive lung mortality to be apparent in the Transvaal amosite (and crocidolite) mining areas. However, production figures for the period 1928–1959 (TABLE 1) show that there is little difference between the production of amosite in the North-Eastern Transvaal and crocidolite in the North-Western Cape.

Wagner, Sleggs and Marchand,[3] in a study of individual cases, observed an association between pleural mesothelioma and exposure, either occupational or nonoccupational (that is, in persons living close to asbestos mines or mills), to crocidolite asbestos in the North-Western Cape. On the other hand, no cases have been observed in populations exposed to amosite only.[1,2] Sluis-Cremer[8] has dealt in this monograph with some of the pat

graphical difference amphibole explains as vaal. Thes tensity of asbestosis been found

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