83. Experiments Using Intraperitoneal Technique.

The results of injection experiments with the intraperitoneal technique are given in Table 23. It will be noted that the long-fiber dusts produced a fibrous reaction while dusts composed of particles 3 microns and less in size caused only an inert type of response. These experiments indicate also that the fibrosis initiated by the irritation of asbestos fibers is not restricted to the lungs, as was formerly assumed, but can be produced in the peritoneum as well.

LXXXIV. OTHER EXPERIMENTS WITH ASBESTOS MINERALS

A number of additional experiments were conducted to throw more light on specific phases of the asbestosis problem.

85. Protective Action of Aluminum Compounds.

Intratracheal injection of a suspension of long-fiber chrysotile to which colloidal aluminum hydroxide had been added revealed that the addition of the aluminum compound did not prevent the tissue irritation produced by chrysotile. If anything, the acute inflammatory response to the injected fibrous mineral was accelerated. One month after the last injection of the dust suspension the bronchiolitis was becoming fibrous.

86. Formation of Asbestosis Bodies.

The iron in the coating of the asbestosis body appears to be derived from blood or tissue elements and not, as has been suggested, from the mineral fiber. Following subcutaneous injection of two kinds of chrysotile into the groin of guinea pigs - one kind containing 2 per cent and the other 0.2 per cent Fe_2O_3 - the asbestosis bodies were equally numerous at both sites of injection.