of the statistical analysis, undoubtedly succumbed later to their occupational neoplasia. The prognosis of industrial oil cancer, as reflected by the statistical figures from England, is far from favorable and comparable to that found in cutaneous malignancy in general. Considering the rather benign, biological behaviour of these tumors and their relatively good response to properly and timely instituted treatment, the impression remains that a great deal more can be done to improve the prognosis of this industrial neoplasia (Twort).

### IX. SEX

The great majority of the occupational paraffin and oil cancers is found among male workers. Bridge and Henry commented on the absence of oil cancer among female workers employed in spinning establishments in England (a total of 1,879 employed). They attributed this phenomenon to the facts that there were only a small number of female mule spinners and only a few of these remained in the trade sufficiently long to be adequately exposed; while others had left the industry before their industrial tumors became manifest. The occupational etiology of the subsequently appearing lesions was not properly recognized for this reason (475 of the 1,879 women employed in the spinning industry were over 30 years old and only 159 were over 40 years old). The majority of these women were working as piecers and scavengers, and not as mule spinners.

Southam (1928) expressed his astonishment regarding the uncommon occurrence of cutaneous cancer in female cotton operatives and mentioned the observation of an epithelioma of the forearm in a female cardroom worker. However, in 1930, Henry noted that recent notifications had been received concerning the occurrence of oil cancer among female weavers and cotton ring-spinning operatives. This information is in agreement with observations reported by Somerford concerning the occurrence of oil cancer of the skin in women who were or had been exposed during their work to mineral oils. In a series of 45 cases of cutaneous malignancy in women analyzed by this investigator, three individuals had, at the time of the discovery of the neoplasm, occupational contact with mineral oil, while an additional sixteen women had been exposed to oils in the past before their marriage. Somerford emphasized the fact that the only irritant of carcinogenic nature to which women become exposed during industrial work in England is mineral oil, as there were no cases of tar, pitch, or paraffin cancer in women in his series. In view of the decline of mule spinning in England since 1900 and the increasing use of ring- or flyer-spinning for which women are employed (Leitch; and Irvine), there may result in the coming years a gradual reduction in the number of mule spinners' cancer in male workers, and at the same time a higher incidence of oil cancer among industrially employed women may occur. It is not likely that such an increased exposure to mineral oils by women