It was found that 40 (52.6 per cent.) of the cases had a history of occupational exposure to asbestos, or of having lived in the same house as an asbestos worker, compared with nine (11.8 per cent.) out of 76 patients from the same hospital with other diseases. The interval between first exposure and development of the fatal tumour ranged between 16 and 55 years.

Of nine patients whose relatives worked with asbestos, seven were women. The most usual history was that of the wife who used to wash her husband's dungarees or work clothes. In one instance a relative said that the husband, a docker, came home "white with asbestos" every evening for three or four years, during which the wife brushed him down.

The two men in this group were boys of eight and nine when their sisters were working in an asbestos plant.

Homes near factory

Among the fatal cases with no occupational or domestic exposure to asbestos 11 (30.6 per cent.) had lived within half a mile of the factory, as against five (7.6 per cent.) of the other patients, says the "British Journal of Industrial Medicine."

There were three affected women who had lived within half a mile of the factory when it was in production on its original site; they were then between five and seven years old.

The previously unrecognised risk of this particular tumour from asbestos was first driven home in 1960 when Dr. J. C. Wagner and co-workers reported 33 cases among people in South Africa who had been exposed to asbestos dust in the industry, or in the vicinity of the Cape asbestos mines. Their latest total is 130 cases.

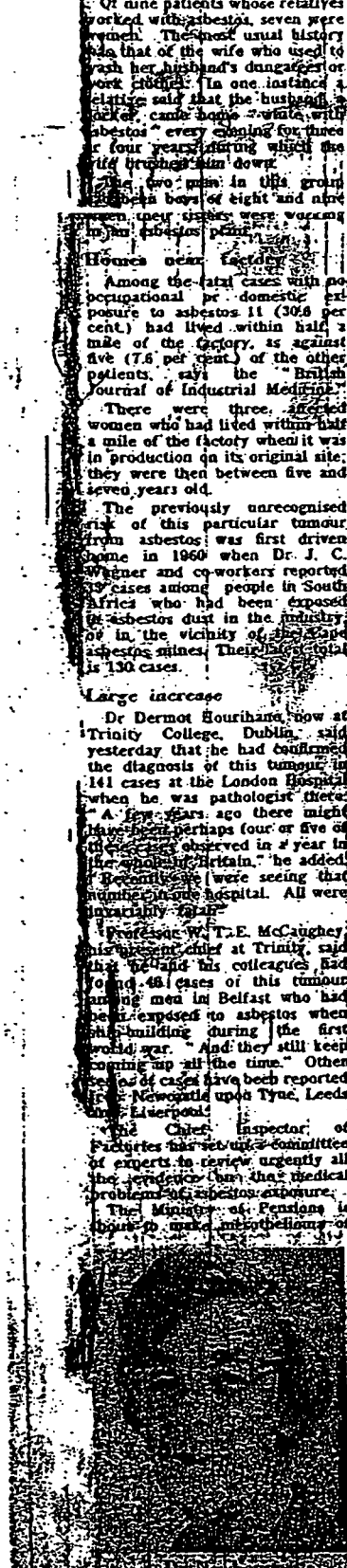
Large increase

Dr Dermot Bourihane, now at Trinity College, Dublin, said yesterday that he had confirmed the diagnosis of this tumour in 141 cases at the London Hospital when he was pathologist there. "A few years ago there might have been perhaps four or five of these cases observed in a year in the whole of Britain," he added. "Recently we were seeing that number in one hospital. All were invariably fatal."

Professor W. T. E. McCaughey, his present chief at Trinity, said that he and his colleagues had found 48 cases of this tumour among men in Belfast who had been exposed to asbestos when shipbuilding during the first world war. "And they still keep coming up all the time." Other series of cases have been reported from Newcastle upon Tyne, Leeds and Liverpool.

The Chief Inspector of Factories has set up a committee of experts to review urgently all the evidence on the medical problem of asbestos exposure.

The Minister of Pensions is about to make a pathology of



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Solution possible 'by the turn of

David Holden, Salisbury, Saturday

THE proposal for a Royal Commission on the Rhodesian independence issue leaves the Rhodesian Government with "no excuse" for a unilateral declaration of independence.

This belief, firmly expressed by Mr Wilson here this morning, at the closing Press conference of his five-day stay, is the most hopeful note that anyone has sounded in Salisbury this week, and has left the world's Press, the City, and no doubt the whole of Rhodesia, in a whirl of bewildered speculation while the British Prime Minister flies off to explain himself further in African lands elsewhere.

The idea of a Royal Commission emerged at one o'clock this morning, out of the midnight gloom that had steadily descended upon Mr Wilson's talks when the Rhodesian Government issued a statement saying that it had proposed a three-man commission under Sir Hugh Beadle, the Rhodesian Chief Justice, to "decide only the question whether or not the 1961 Constitution, with adjustments to make the country independent, is acceptable to the people of Rhodesia as a whole."

At his Press conference Mr Wilson made it clear that this statement was issued without his knowledge, and he proceeded to put a significantly different gloss upon the proposal that was in fact agreed. The original proposal, he said, had come from him yesterday in the form of alternatives—the first of which was not mentioned in the Rhodesian Government's statement. Either, he had said, Mr Smith should demonstrate his confidence in his v that the people of Rhodesia a whole supported his policies, putting it to the test of some f of democratic consultation, or should agree to a Royal C mission under the chairmans of Sir Hugh Beadle which wo be given the responsibility of vising a new Constitution would enable independence be granted in a manner acc able to the people as a whole.

Mr Smith had replied "sa lously," with an analogy two, suggesting that the Governments should prepare agreed document which wo incorporate such amendment the 1961 Constitution as t thought necessary to meet principles, and that this ment should then be hande a Royal Commission empow to discover and apply acce

Heath accuses Premier o 'lie' over payments gap

By James Margach
Political Correspondent

MR EDWARD HEATH yesterday intensified his attack on "the disgraceful lie" in Labour's propaganda claims about the "economic mess" which the Government inherited. But this time he went much further than before by accusing the Prime Minister directly.

"There is no truth in his suggestion that he was surprised to find a deficit," said Mr Heath. "He did know all the time. I have suspected for a long time that there was something phoney about this pretended ignorance."

Mr Heath, who was speaking at Bristol, obviously intends to mount a major political campaign to repudiate the charges that the Conservatives left an economic mess and to assert that the economic crisis was largely of Labour's own making. It was significant that this hard-hitting attack was directed exclusively at Mr Wilson himself, so as to put the Prime Minister in the dock as responsible for the misrepresentations.

"At Brighton I disposed of the disgraceful lie that the Labour Government inherited an £800 million economic mess. A few weeks ago, here in Bristol, Mr Wilson told you that he did not know how large the balance of payments deficit was until they took office," he said.

"I have suspected for a long time that there was something phoney about this pretended ignorance. Now I have got to the bottom of it. I have looked up Mr Wilson's speech to the Trade Union Congress of September 7, 1964.

"That was five weeks b the election. This is what he then: 'This trade gap me deficit on our current balan payments of £500 million a

In fact, the current ba for 1964 was £400 million £500 million. There is no in his suggestion that he surprised to find a deficit. H know all the time.

"Indeed, when he took he should have been surp to have found that the defici £100 million less than he predicted five weeks previ That was the current balan did not include the capital of overseas investment. He about them too. The details published two weeks befor election. He only included later to exaggerate the tota

Mr Heath's speech—pag

Pay talks still hold up automatic coal cutters

By Ian Coulter, Industrial Correspondent

MILLIONS OF POUNDS worth of automatic coal-cutting machines are idle because the National Coal Board and the National Union of Mineworkers cannot agree what miners should be paid for controlling the machines. Negotiations have now entered their second year.

Apart from the pay controversy, work at the new pit at Bevercotes in the East Midlands, coalfield which was shown to international mining engineers last July as the world's first remote control colliery, is six months behind schedule. It should now be in production by mid-[illegible] there is no agreement on pay. [illegible] the 1960 factory [illegible] the Coal Board [illegible] £500,000. But [illegible] these machines are on order, at a cost of some £5 million.

The 1964-65 National Coal Board annual report said: "In October, 1964, the Board and the N U M agreed that the wages and conditions of men employed on remotely operated longwall faces should be governed by a national agreement and at the end of the year negotiations had reached an advanced stage. Discussions also began on a national agreement on the wages and conditions of employment of men to be employed at Bevercotes colliery. Negotiations were still proceeding at the end of the year."

And they are still continuing. Mr Sidney Ford, President of the National Union of Mineworkers, [illegible] acceptance of the terms which are now being put to the men in the coalfields [illegible] Nottinghamshire [illegible] the Midlands [illegible] the North-East