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SILICOSIS AND ASBESTOSIS

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The disease in this country is those who masons, etc. phthisis is metals or appeared in called in gold mines indicate if tuberculosis processes of the world. The inc. During the certified 31 and silicosis from the premises, ment and ablement; ment and death the. Asbestos in many of asbestos processes of a considerable years 1900 and 5 dec. The ob diseases can be in and the tion of wo. Research pointed to the knowl diseases di

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processes, and the procedure for recovering compensation is substantially the same as that laid down in the Act for recovering compensation for accidents or scheduled diseases."

7.—Asbestosis.

Asbestosis is a disease of the lungs produced as a result of the inhalation of asbestos dust usually over a period of several years and occurs in workers in occupations associated with production of asbestos dust in a fine state of division. It is characterized by a special type of fibrosis of the lung tissue which resembles silicosis in its general features of causation and development, but differs from it in some of its clinical and pathological manifestations.

The characteristics of the dust which gives rise to the disease differ in some ways from the silica particles which cause silicosis. In the case of asbestos, owing to the fibrous character of the mineral, many of the free particles are elongated and extremely thin.

The change produced in the lungs is a gradually developing fibrosis in the form of a network throughout the lungs. The nodular distribution of the fibrosis, so characteristic of silicosis, is not seen. Tuberculosis may co-exist but apparently does not supervene so frequently as in silicosis.

Once the fibrous tissue change is established in the lungs, the disease becomes progressive. The first prominent symptom is usually shortness of breath and it remains the most prominent one throughout. Bronchitis, bronchiectasis and broncho-pneumonia are complications frequently met with.

Industries and processes in which asbestosis occurs.—Processes involving exposure to asbestos dust which are known to give rise to asbestosis or in which the conditions are such as to be liable to produce the disease, are the breaking, crushing, disintegrating, opening and grinding of asbestos and the mixing or sieving of asbestos or any admixture of asbestos, the manufacture of asbestos textiles, the making of insulating slabs or sections and the making or repairing of insulating mattresses composed wholly or partly of asbestos, and the sawing, grinding and turning in the dry state of articles composed wholly or partly of asbestos such as motor car brake and clutch linings, jointings, electric insulating materials and some types of electrodes.

Means of prevention.—As in the case of silicosis, suppression or control of the dust is the chief means of preventing the disease. The Asbestos Industry Regulations[†] require the adoption of wet methods, effective enclosure of dust-producing machines, adoption

* See Home Office Memorandum on the Workmen's Compensation Acts, 1903-1931. H.M. Stationery Office, price 5d.

† S.I. & O. 1931. No. 1140.