

FOREWORD

During the past year, a number of industrial materials have come under attack in public news media as a result of heightened public interest in the environment. The potential of such materials to adversely affect the health of the general population through environmental contamination has been raised.

One such material is asbestos. There have been articles in the professional literature^{1, 2} and in the lay press³ which present highly exaggerated views of the nature and extent of the potential problem. Prompt criticism has followed pointing to erroneous interpretation of existing facts and publication of misinformation.⁴⁻⁹

At the suggestion of several of its members, Industrial Hygiene Foundation held a meeting on July 19, 1966 to summarize what industry is doing to develop information to protect the health of its employees and the public from potential environmental hazard. Such information should be of considerable value to all those responsible for planning of environmental and occupational health research, whether in industry, universities or government.

It is appropriate that Industrial Hygiene Foundation, a nonprofit research association of industries for advancement of health conservation in matters related to industry's operations, products and wastes, should assist in development of national environmental and occupational health research to help insure that industry's needs are provided for at all stages of program development.

-
1. Thomson, J.G. and Graves, W.M. "Asbestos as an Urban Air Contaminant." Arch. Path. 81:458, May 1966.
 2. Thomson, J.G. and Graves, W.M. "Asbestosis in Urban Populations." JAMA 196:732-733, May 1966.
 3. Anonymous. "Asbestos: Awaiting 'Trial'." Chem. Week, p. 32, Sept. 10, 1966.
 4. Gross, P. Letter to Editor "Today's Pressing Question—How Safe is Urban Air." Arch. Path. 82:195, Aug. 1966.
 5. deTreville, R.T.P. Letter to Editor. Arch. Path. (to be published)
 6. Gross, P. Letter to Editor. JAMA. (to be published)
 7. Hackney, R. Letter to Editor. Chem. Week, p. 7, Oct. 8, 1966.
 8. Brown, M. C. Letter to Editor. Ibid.
 9. Editorial Note (following refs. 7 and 8). Ibid.