

Routine blood counts and urinalyses were made on each individual examined. Haemoglobin was determined by the Haden and Hausser colorimetric method and expressed as grams of haemoglobin per 100 cc. of blood. Smears for differential counts were stained with Wright's stain and 200 cells studied microscopically using a 2 mm. oil immersion objective. Practically no change was observed in the blood picture of the three groups. Comparable average variations did not occur in either the erythrocyte or leucocyte count. In two individuals with moderately advanced pulmonary fibrosis, the total leucocyte counts were 10,800 and 11,400 with corresponding increases in the percentages of polymorphonuclear leucocytes. Changes in the percentages of other types of white cells were not observed.

Urine specimens were collected from each worker at the time of physical examination. Specific gravity, albumin content, and the presence of sugar were determined and a microscopic examination made of a centrifuged portion. Urinalyses were essentially negative except for a trace of albumin in four of the positive and thirteen of the negative exposed groups, as compared with two of the controls.

A brief summary of the clinical findings of ~~these~~ asbestos mill workers and the accompanying illustrations (Figures 4 to 7 inc.) are presented to show the two stages of asbestosis encountered in this study.

Case number A-8730—White male; aged 30 years.

Chief complaints—Cough.

Objective symptoms—Occasional frontal headache (2) Epistaxis rare (3) Dry unproductive cough (4) Coughing attacks precipitated by strenuous exercise.

Past Medical History—Usual childhood diseases. Traumatic orchitis, 1934.

Occupational History—Began working at 16 years of age. Millman, 2 years. Mule spinner, worsted mill, 2 years. Ice man, 1 year. Mule spinner, asbestos fabricating plant, 9 years.

Physical Examination—Apparently healthy adult male. Height 62 inches. Weight 122 pounds (greatest weight 122 pounds). Skin clear. No cyanosis. Asbestos warts on both hands. Pulse rate before, immediately after, and two minutes after exercise, 84, 100, 72. Respiration rate immediately before and two minutes after exercise, 20, 22. Chest, normal shape; percussion normal; breath and voice sounds normal; sibilant and sonorous rales both bases. Heart, apical impulse, 5th interspace mid-clavicular line; no murmurs. Blood pressure 134/90.

Fluoroscopy—Diaphragmatic movement, right dome, 2.5 cm.; left dome, 1.5 cm.

X-Ray—Thoracic cage is negative. The trachea is in the midline. The cardiac silhouette is within normal limits of size. The arch of the aorta is not widened. The domes of the diaphragm are somewhat irregular on the left side but fairly irregular on the right. The pleura appears to be slightly thickened on the left side, and is more clearly shown in the oblique view. In the right apex there is possibly an old healed tuberculous process giving the appearance of an apical cap. The hila are increased in prominence. The trunk markings and linear markings are increased in prominence.