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NEW HAVEN, Sept. 9—The 53,000 volumes of Yale University's Art and Architecture Library are to be moved to a new site later this week because of the health threat posed by asbestos particles falling from the ceiling.

"It falls in big chunks and it falls in microscopic bits," said Robert C. Kaufmann, the library's director.

Mr. Kaufmann has been inside the library only once since June—and then wearing special goggles—because the fibers apparently aggravate an eye irritation he has. The particles have also been linked to two cases of chronic conjunctivitis—an inflammation of the eyelid's inner surface—in two users of the library.

Several employes involved in handling books regularly are now wearing face masks.

Dr. Robert N. Sawyer of Yale Health Service, noted that asbestos had been linked to malignancies in humans.

Health Hazard Noted

In a report, based on a study of the library last month, Dr. Sawyer noted that "the disease may occur 20 to 30 years following a very limited exposure."

The report, which also discusses unsatisfactory building conditions in regard to temperature and humidity, physical hazards, animal life within the structure, and potable water, says that the asbestos fallout has been occurring since the construction of the building in 1963.

"The population at risk," the report says, "includes all users . . . even the occasional user or visitor."

Accordingly, the university plans to remove or seal all the asbestos ceiling now in the building—70,000 square feet of it. Measures will also taken to remove fibers from the current library collection.

Target Date Given

The process of making space for the art and architecture books in an existing Yale library is scheduled for completion by Thursday. The books will be moved with related unbound periodicals, vertical file material and catalogues.

The university said today that the asbestos condition should be cleared up within "the next three months," but the art and architectural material will remain in its new location at least until the end of the school year.

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