ers appeared to have lower exposures than broadcloth weavers but when heavy brake linings were woven, the counts again went up (page 29).

Medical data in the study suffered from several unavoidable difficulties. More than one-half of the male and female employees were under 30 years of age (page 47). As previously stated, this group had the lowest average age of any group studied by the Public Health Service. Table 22 states that the average age for the asbestos textile industry was 32.1 as compared with the post office and foundry industry of 37.8 and 33.1 for the rubber and chemical industries. One of the reasons, perhaps, for this was the fact that the asbestos textile industry was "of comparatively recent origin in this country. Only one of the plants studied had been in operation before 1920" (page 48).

This was a "point survey" of people at work with all the epidemiological difficulties it entails. In a survey of this type, the sick are missing and the dead are buried. Because of the relatively small number of individuals examined in each group, the percentage values as given "must be viewed with caution because they are based on small numbers of workers. This is particularly true in the groups with more than 10 years' employment," (page 58).

Finally, note should be made that Dreessen and his colleagues regarded the figure they gave of 5 mppcf as simply a working figure for that time. On the basis of their studies, they concluded that "5 million particles per cubic foot may be regarded tentatively as the threshold value for asbestos-dust exposure until better data are available" (page 91).

References

1. American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists. 1964. Threshold Limit Values for 1964. American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists. Cincinnati, Ohio.
2. Dreessen, W. C., J. M. DallaValle, T. I. Edwards, J. W. Miller, R. R. Sayers, H. F. Easom & M. F. Trice. 1938. A study of asbestosis in the asbestos textile industry. Public Health Bull. No. 241. Washington, D.C.
3. Vorwald, A. J., T. M. Durkan & P. C. Pratt. 1951. Experimental studies of asbestosis. A.M.A. Arch. Indust. Hyg. Occup. Med. 3: 1–43.
4. Bloomfield, J. J. & J. M. DallaValle. 1935. The determination and control of industrial dust. Public Health Bull. No. 217. Washington, D.C.
5. Lanza, A. J., Ed. 1938. Silicosis and Asbestosis. Oxford Univ. Press. London, England.
6. Wagner, J. D., C. A. Sleggs & P. Marchand. 1960. Diffuse pleural mesothelioma and asbestos exposure in North Western Cape Province. Brit. J. Indust. Med. 17: 260–271.

8000 1033 PQ

PRODUCED BY FORD