

tend to succumb to mesothelioma after many years of such contact. A number of examples are given, including those of carpenters and construction workers, who do not realize that their relatively brief contact in sawing or handling asbestos materials can lead to lung cancer many years later. The great increase in asbestos production and in asbestosis in recent years is tabulated; the need for utilization of alternate materials in industry, and for further research on biological effects is emphasized. The presence in asbestos of carcinogenic oils and other components, including benzopyrene and chromium, is mentioned. --APCA Absts.

- 283 Asbestos Exposure and Pleural Mesotheliomas. R. H. Mortimer and C. B. Campbell. Med. J. Australia 2, 720-722 (Oct. 26, 1966).

Diffuse pleural mesothelioma is reported in two patients exposed to asbestos dust. The neoplasmas were dissimilar in macroscopic and histological appearances. Criteria for classification as mesotheliomas are presented. Asbestos bodies were found in the lungs of both patients, but minimal interstitial fibrosis was present.

--J. Am. Med. Assn. References & Reviews

- 284 Prevalence of Asbestos Bodies in Basal Lung Smears. A. Pollack and M. I. Sacks. Israel J. Med. Sci. (Jerusalem) 4, 223-226 (March-April, 1968).

Asbestos bodies were found in basal lung smears in 26 of 100 consecutive adult autopsies in Jerusalem. They were present in 29.1% of males and 22.2% of females, and were more frequently encountered in Ashkenazi than in non-Ashkenazi Jews. Asbestos bodies, when present, were usually scanty (less than 10), and in only two males were more than 30 bodies found under low power. The five subjects with more than ten asbestos bodies each were all Ashkenazi Jews. The prevalence of asbestos bodies is compared with Cape Town, Pittsburgh, Miami, Montreal, Glasgow, and Jerusalem. Highest frequency found is in Montreal (48%) and may reflect differences in the degree of atmospheric pollution. --APCA Absts.

- 285 Pathological Symptoms Due to Inhalation of Asbestos Dust. H. Bohlig. Zentr. Arbeitsmed. u. Arbeitsschutz. 16, 353-355 (Dec., 1966).

In brief literature review, in which authors are mentioned but no references cited, the problem of asbestos dust as a carcinogenic substance is surveyed. Despite greatly increased preventive measures taken in many asbestos plants, and the resultant reductions in cases of asbestosis, problems of asbestos inhalation have acquired new significance during the past five years. The retrospective examination of mesothelioma autopsy material in various countries has implicated asbestos dust as a malignant-tumor inducing agent, not only in asbestos workers but even in others. The well-known "pleura-plaques" of asbestosis and diffuse mesotheliomas have been observed in individuals who had never had occupational contact with asbestos but who had resided in the vicinity of asbestos plants or mines. It can be stated with assurance that pollution of the ambient air (emission) by asbestos factories—which were relatively late in utilizing the asbestos dust of their dedusting installations instead of simply releasing it to the atmosphere—has been a causative factor in a significant increase in the rate of appearance of both pleural plaques and mesotheliomas. Whether or not the quantities of asbestos dust released into the atmosphere from brake linings of automobiles are also responsible for these malignancies is a question which has yet to be determined; however, asbestos was detected histologically in the lungs of city dwellers not exposed occupationally in the following percentages: Pittsburgh, 41.0%; Miami, 27.9%; Cape Town, 26.4%. Individuals endangered by asbestos, in addition to those just cited, include persons who have occasional contact with asbestos in construction or other activities (such as roofers, insulation specialists). The properties of asbestos ores, including their benzopyrene content, are briefly mentioned. --APCA Absts.

- 286 Asbestos Bodies in the Lungs and Mesothelioma. A Retrospective Examination of a Ten-Year Autopsy Material. I. Hagerstrand, L. Meurman, and B. Odlund. Acta Pathol. Microbiol. Scand. (Copenhagen) 72, (2), 177-191 (1968).

In 12,763 autopsies performed during 1957-66 at the General Hospital, Malmö, Sweden, 37 cases of mesothelioma were found (27 of the pleura, 5 of the peritoneum) for a frequency of 0.27% (0.3% if children under 15 years of age are excluded). Of these, 34 were re-examined.