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SPECIAL MEETING

CASTLE HARBOUR BEACH AND GOLF CLUB, BERMUDA

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21st, 1968

In addition to the members and guests present at the meeting of Friday, September 20th, Dr. Wright attended the meeting as Chairman of the Scientific Committee of the Institute of Occupational and Environmental Health.

The President, Mr. W.W. Oughtred turned the meeting over to the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Institute, who then called on Dr. Wright to address the meeting.

INSTITUTE OF OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Comments by Chairman of Scientific Committee.

In his general remarks, Dr. Wright pointed out that interest from the scientific world had grown since the last Special Meeting in Grand Bahama. During the next few months, for instance, four (4) full-scale meetings will be devoted to the biological effects of asbestos, with specific reference to mesothelioma.

1. A meeting called by Dr. Paul Katin week of September 23rd in North Carolina on the Establishing of a National Registry of Mesothelioma Cases, and making a full scale study of mesothelioma.
2. A meeting to be held in Great Britain in the Spring of 1969, devoted to the Biological Aspects of Mesothelioma.

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3.- A meeting to be held in South Africa, by invitation only, sponsored by the Department of Mines, dealing with various kinds of pneumoconiosis.

4.- A meeting to be held in Tokyo to discuss maximum allowable concentration to which a person can be exposed. Doctors Nord, Wright and Peinar to participate in discussion on health effects of asbestos. Reviewing the work of the Scientific Committee, the Chairman reported that Dr. McDonald was slightly ahead of schedule in his epidemiological survey. A paper on oils and wax adsorbed in asbestos fibre which may cause cancer has been submitted for publication. During testing of international samples for oils and hydrocarbons it was found that such adsorption resulted from the containers of fibre. It was not shown, however, that the oils were carcinogenic; nevertheless, samples should be placed in metal containers.

In his report at the Dresden Meeting, Dr. McDonald first confirmed earlier results obtained at Sarnac, etc. on the gas function of the lung, the gradient of partial pressures between air and blood in the lung. Thus, a population could develop a greater resistance to fibres inhaled. Secondly, in connection with dust counts measurements, Dr. McDonald has developed a scale of exposures for various locations. Preliminary evidence would indicate that mesothelioma occurs in Canada according to density of population.

The study of Dr. Vigliani is progressing; there is nothing to report at this time. As to the project of Dr. Pernis, a progress report will be submitted later. Dr. Nord's research proposal on Exposure to Anthophyllite Asbestos is highly recommended, the final decision being left with the Executive Committee.

The Scientific Committee has just completed a three (3) volume report.

Volume III (three) contains published data which bear most strongly upon the four (4) specific questions or areas established by the Scientific Committee and explained by Dr. Wright at the Special Meeting in Grand Bahama of March 29, 1968. (See minutes page 5.)

Volume II (two) begins with an introduction setting forth the problem and essentials for a solution. Each of the four major questions is presented as a section; in each case there is a list of research projects being done and also an analysis of the areas where information is needed.

Volume I (one) is a digest of volume II (two) emphasizing areas where additional work must be stimulated and supported. An attempt is also being made to estimate the potential annual cost of such studies if and when recommended.

Dresden Meeting - Delegation from Russia and iron countries attended the Meeting. The most provocative paper was presented by Dr. Newhouse of Great Britain. Dr. Newhouse gave an alarming report on mesothelioma based on heavily, moderately and lightly exposed sections of people to asbestos fibre. An unexpectedly high degree of cancer was found in heavily exposed people. There would appear, however, to be a tolerable degree of asbestos exposure; the crux is what is moderate and light exposures. In the case of earlier reported neighbourhood exposures she concluded that such neighbourhood exposures must have been higher than in-plant exposures; dust could accumulate in houses of workers, if not properly cleaned and ventilated.

Insulation Workers - Studies of Dr. Selikoff - Until recently there was very little information on length of exposure but a great deal on severity. We now have some information from the shipyards in Great Britain and U.S.A. Concentrations of 40, 300, 3,000 fibres per c.c. have been encountered, where such should have been 2 and 12 fibres per c.c. It would appear that insulation workers must

have been exposed to extraordinarily high concentrations of fibre, since 20% of them have asbestosis. Dr. Selikoff for his present studies has obtained financial support from Unions and Industry. A Committee was formed of which Dr. Wright is a member. No further work is recommended.

Maximum Allowable Concentrations of Fibre - For some 20 years the maximum allowable concentration in the United States was 5,000,000 parts per cu. ft. In Great Britain the asbestos regulations refer to two standards. One applies to chrysotile, amosite and anthophyllite calling for a maximum of 2 fibres per c.c. If between 2 and 4 fibres per c.c., the inspector will visit the plant; between 4 and 10 the plant will be required to improve; in excess of 10, it is a breach of regulations. The second one concerns crocidolite; packages must bear a label with a proper warning (maximum to be 1/10 of above standards).

In U.S.A. there is no similar regulating body, but there is an Association of industrial hygienists which sets standards periodically. It is indicated that a standard of 2 particles per c.c. was about to be proposed, but the Antigua Conferences having a bearing on the decision (Drs. Crawley, Brown and Wright strongly objecting), such proposal was not adopted. It was agreed, however, that the old standard was inadequate. Accordingly, a new standard has been set at two millions particles per cu. ft. In the case of fibre count, this would mean 12 fibres per c.c. A particle so as to be considered a fibre must be three(3) times longer than its diameter. (5 microns) Over 50 microns, however, fibres are not counted. In answer to a question it was pointed out that the impinger dust counter does not collect fibres; the Bausch and Lomb unit counts total particles and not fibres. As a result, the temporary level of 12 fibres per c.c. is unrealistic, because it does not count the injurious material, namely asbestos fiber.

In concluding, Dr. Wright stated that it is not known today what asbestos does, and consequently one cannot evaluate that length or that size which should be allowed.

Comments by Counsel.

The point has been reached where clouds are about to burst. Data is being accumulated around the world with the view of achieving preparedness for actual trial. Claims are mounting up but the essential facts are usually missed by both the claimants and the employers involved. Procedures should be systematically established and it should be advisable to have all claims and "to-be-initiated" claims canalized with diligence through General Manager's Office so as to achieve constructive defense to such claims when defense is warranted.

It is fortunate that Dr. Wright is now sitting with Dr. Selikoff and others on a committee investigating the group of insulation workers. This is a very constructive development, apt to bring about among other things more moderation as to public statements. It is here, on this continent, that we have greater knowledge on the question. Our own group of doctors is respected and working seriously at the problems involved and their work is well coordinated by our Institute at Montreal.

Comments by the Chairman of the Executive Committee.

Mr. Lindall stated that he had studied the three volumes prepared by the Scientific Committee and was very pleased with their contents. Copies will be distributed to every company.

The matter of cost of future research is well set out; obviously a large amount of money is involved. How is such research to be funded? A charge per ton to manufacturers and by calling again on governments might be the answer. The suggestion was made to finance future projects through a surcharge of 1% on sales, $\frac{1}{2}$ % being charged to the customer. As to the tax angle, our Auditors' advise that there would be no problem for the mining companies, if the amount of the surcharge was credited to a "Liability" account and not to an "Income" account.

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Mining companies would then pay to the Institute or O.A.M.A. each month the amount of the surcharge of the preceding month, to which would be added their respective share. Appropriate wording should be used on invoices covering export shipments since the funds thus collected could possibly be spent outside the importing country. The Executive Committee should look into it and take a decision by January 1st, 1969.

At the last meeting of the Executive Committee of the Institute, Dr. Noro's research proposal was approved. It has also been suggested to contact the Medical Research Council in Ottawa (as well as the Ottawa and Quebec governments as such) for grants concerning specific research projects.

Insulation Workers - Meetings were held to organize an Institute, but failed to do so; as a coalition of J.M. people and Union representatives was formed so as to study the problem with an initial contribution of some \$150,000. each. According to Dr. Salikoff, cigarettes smoking is definitely related to mesothelioma and lung cancer: "If you work with asbestos, you must not smoke" he says.

Warning Label - The warning referred to in previous meetings (as to what should appear on containers) has been implemented by J.M. with printed words on back and face of bags; customers have been forewarned of such a move.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Paul A. Filteau,
General Manager
&
Secretary.