

information from such a study to be projected to some larger group, it is necessary that the autopsies represent a good sample of that larger group. To assume that such is the case in any particular series is dangerous and likely to be false.

There is some danger that the figures reported by some authors may be misconstrued as applying to asbestos workers or even asbestos miners, when, in fact, the authors in question do not make this generalization, nor can the generalization be made for the reasons stated. Close study of the reports reveals that the percentages quoted relate only to the group of autopsies covered by the particular investigation.

The present study, in contrast to the earlier works, has been planned to utilize the epidemiological method. A well-defined group of asbestos miners has been established in such a way that it constitutes a good sample of the whole population of asbestos miners in Quebec. Data for all members of this group have been collected and analyzed. Those concerning lung cancer have received most careful consideration. Details of the methods employed will be set forth in a later section, but the type of approach is considered to permit of fair comparisons and valid generalizations.