Four of the proved cases of lung cancer and one of the suspected were associated with asbestosis. Since we have only 32 deaths in which asbestosis was present according to the records, the incidence in this series is 12.5%. While this is slightly lower than the rates found by Merewether, Gloyne, and Wedler, it is still much higher than could be expected if the asbestosis incidence were anywhere near the experience reported by other authors.

Comparison of the Cohort Experience with that of the Province of Quebec, Dominion of Canada, and the United States

In order to make a comparison of the experience among asbestos miners with that of the general population of the Province of Quebec, statistics were gathered, as stated earlier, in the office of the Division of Demography in the Provincial Ministry of Health. The data on total deaths, deaths from all forms of cancer, and deaths from cancer of the lung were obtained by sex and by county for the years 1950 through 1955. In addition, all death certificates which specified primary cancer of the lung, and all those which indicated lung cancer but did not specify the origin, were examined for the years 1952 through 1955.

Table 20 gives a tabulation of the number of deaths from lung cancer in the Province and in the two cohorts for the years 1950 through 1955, and shows the annual rate per 100,000 in these segments.