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others were discovered to have had at least some minor exposure to the mineral. The ten people with major exposure included a self-employed maker of Swiss cheese who used a one-hundred-gallon boiler covered with asbestos insulation that flaked off on contact, a salesman who had mixed and applied asbestos-cement insulation to boilers in his home, and a fourteen-year-old boy who at one time had helped his father saw up and install plasterboard during an extensive remodelling of their house.

From an epidemiological point of view, the investigations that tended to support the findings of Wagner and Thomson were weak, because they lacked a defined population as a base against which the data could be measured. On the other hand, the presence of asbestos bodies in the lungs of such a large percentage of consecutive autopsies in so many widely distributed cities of the world was sufficient to indicate that asbestos fibres were probably being inhaled by a majority of urban dwellers everywhere, and the association between asbestos and mesothelioma was striking enough to suggest that a history of exposure to the mineral was likely to be found whenever a positive diagnosis of the tumor was made. As a result, epidemiologists were forced to revise their idea that asbestosis was only an industrial hazard, and to give serious consideration to Thomson's prediction that it might prove to be dangerous for untold numbers of unsuspecting people in the general community.

IN October of 1964, in order to review the data collected in the past and to discuss the problems awaiting solution in the future, the New York Academy of Sciences sponsored an international Conference on the Biological Effects of Asbestos, at the Waldorf-Astoria. The conference enabled more than four hundred scientists from all over the world to discuss the immensely complicated epidemiological and clinical problems that had appeared in the forty years since Dr. Cooke described the first clear case of asbestosis and its planning was largely the work of one of its co-chairmen, Dr. Irving J. Selikoff, who is head of the Division of Environmental Medicine at the City University's Mount Sinai School of Medicine, director of its Environmental Sciences Laboratory and a pioneer in the field of modern asbestos epidemiology.

Like many of his colleagues at the conference, Dr. Selikoff became inter