Summary and Conclusions

Interest in the question of whether there may be an association between lung cancer and exposure to asbestos has been evident since the report in 1935 by Lynch and Smith of a case in which lung cancer and asbestosis were both present. As additional cases in which the two diseases co-existed were reported, a causal association appears to have been gradually accepted by many authors, although some workers considered the correlation to be inconclusive. The present study was ~~conducted~~ UNDERTAKEN in an effort to determine whether a causal relationship did, in fact, exist between exposure to asbestos and cancer of the lung.

Since most earlier studies had been limited to enumerating the lung cancers found in certain selected samples, such as cases coming to autopsy or death certificates in which asbestosis was mentioned, it was apparent that they could not fulfill the requirements of an epidemiological and statistical approach to the problem. The present study was, therefore, designed to meet the requirements of this method.

After a preliminary survey to explore the availability of reliable information, data were gathered on workers in the asbestos mines in Quebec, based on their medical records. A cohort was defined AS A GROUP OF ~~according to certain criteria and all workers who met those criteria were included in the study.~~ ASBESTOS MINERS HAVING AT LEAST FIVE YEARS OF EXPOSURE AND WHO WERE IN THE INDUSTRY IN 1950.
Data relative to their characteristics were collected and their status at the end of a six-year-period of observation was determined. In the case of those who had died, an exhaustive search of death certificates and insurance records