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Dreesen et al 1954

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DREESSEN, W. C., DALLAVALLI, J. M., EDWARDS,
T. L., MILLER, J. W., & SAYERS, R. H., with the
assistance of H. F. EASON & M. F. TRICE. A
Study of Asbestosis in the Asbestos Textile
Industry. Pub. Health, Bull. No. 211. Wash.
1948. Aug., pp. ix + 120, 65 figs. [Bibliography.]

This monograph is an official publication of the Division of Industrial Hygiene of the National Institute of Health of the U.S. Public Health Service. The authors have been modest in their choice of title. In addition to their record of asbestosis in the asbestos textile industry in the particular factories under observation, the work is an excellent account of pulmonary asbestosis in general with an annotated bibliography which abstracts succinctly the chief publications during the last ten years or more.

The investigation was made in asbestos textile factories of North Carolina. Four plants were investigated, two which convert crude asbestos and raw cotton into asbestos yarn and woven goods, and two which purchase asbestos yarn and unfinished woven asbestos tape and convert the purchased material into finished goods (e.g. brake bands). "Flow sheets" are given summarizing the various processes from the reception of the crude asbestos to the production of the finished article and comparing the technique with British practice. Dust counts were made by the impinger method, using ethyl alcohol and distilled water mixtures containing from 25-50 per cent alcohol as a collecting fluid. Sampling was made of settled dusts collected at breathing level, and of air-suspended dusts collected by vacuum cleaner. To determine the particle size of dust an Owens jet apparatus was employed. Chemical analyses of dusts were also made. The data are given in a long series of statistical tables, and correlation of medical findings with dust exposure is expressed by multiplying the average dust count (in million particles per cu. ft.) by the duration of the worker's exposure in years. The numbers of workers examined was 541 (423 men and 118 women), five-sixths of them being native-born Americans of Anglo-Saxon stock. The group consisted of workers who were much younger than the average industrial employee and had been employed in the industry for relatively short periods. An elaborate clinical, radiological and pathological investigation was made. Excluding those with no asbestos exposure the radiological examination of 447 workers (sixty-nine former workers and 378 employed in three factories at the time of

study) yielded 10.3 per cent with asbestosis. This did not represent the true incidence because some 150 employees had been discharged fifteen months before the study was made. Only three cases, all doubtful or borderline, were found to have been exposed to dust concentrations of less than five million particles per cu. ft. Above five million numerous cases were found. It is suggested that if the dust concentration of factories could be kept below five million, new cases would probably not arise. The engineering section of the monograph considers that such a low concentration can be attained.

S. Kenneth Gloag.

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PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT

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Produced in Asbestos Personal
Injury Cases: Abrams lead and
copied to Richard F. Scruggs

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Reprints from Bulletin of Hygiene, Pitman London 1954

in the
medical
literature in U.K.