PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
FK-178

INSTITUTE OF OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

MONTREAL, CANADA

Exhibit 59
Exam of R. Merritt
Date Apr 4 81
Official Reporter
KATHY RYLANDSHOI

Newsletter No. 1 of the Scientific Committee, October 1966

Dear Members of the Scientific Committee:

Enclosed are the minutes of the first meeting of the Scientific Committee in Montreal, July 25 - 26, 1966.

There were important news since then:

The former name "Asbestos Health Research Council" was changed to "Institute of Occupational and Environmental Health" and application was placed for its establishment as a legal entity, which is expected soon to be approved by the authorities. Our Scientific Committee is a part now of the Institute of Occupational and Environmental Health, the other parts being the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors, and probably, a Board of Governors. The proposed activities of the Institute will be the same as those previously planned for the Asbestos Health Research Council.

The Executive Committee of the Institute of Occupational and Environmental Health was appointed recently and is composed as follows:

Karl V. Lindell, Chairman
(Chairman of the Board,
Canadian Johns-Manville Co., Limited)

Michael J. Messel, Member
(President,
Lake Asbestos of Quebec, Limited)

W.W. Oughtred, Member
(Executive Vice-President,
Asbestos Corporation Limited)

Parker Smith, Member
(Vice-President,
Bell Asbestos Mines Limited)

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The Board of Directors is composed as follows:

Michael J. Messel, President

J.O. Eby, Vice-President

R.S. Coleman, Director

Karl V. Lindell, Director

J.A. Main, Director

Dr. R.J. Merrill, Director

Philip A. Meyer, Director

W.W. Oughtred, Director

Parker Smith, Director

Our Institute of Occupational and Environmental Health, upon application of the QAMA, became Associate Member of the Asbestosis Research Council of England.

The Institute of Occupational and Environmental Health has moved into its new premises in Montreal. The address is as follows:

Institute of Occupational and Environmental Health
Suite 1210 - IBM Building,
5 Place Ville Marie,
Montreal 2, Canada.

Telephone: Area Code 514 No. 878-3538

The Scientific Secretary, Dr. P. Pelnar, is now in Montreal working full-time for the Scientific Committee. He is establishing his headquarters and archives at the above address of the Institute in Montreal.

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Enclosed is the report on the international congresses, on diseases of the Chest in Copenhagen and Occupational Health in Vienna, held on August and September 1966. Report was written by Dr. Paul Cartier of Thetford Mines who attended both congresses. You will notice that no mesothelioma was observed in patients with pleural plaques in Finland.

Results of both congresses and also of the congresses in Tokyo will be discussed thoroughly during the next meeting of the Scientific Committee.

Sincerely yours,

George W. Wright, M.D.
Chairman

Premysl V. Pelnar, M.D
Secretary

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MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE OF THE INSTITUTE OF OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH IN MONTREAL

The meeting was held at the Windsor Hotel in Montreal on July 25 and 26, 1966.

Present were:

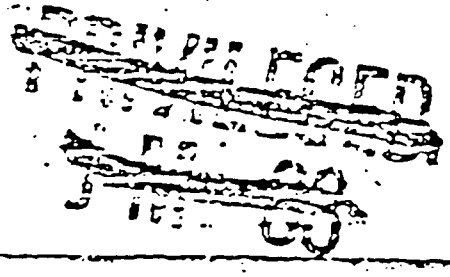
George W. Wright, M.D., Chairman
Dr. John Beattie, Member
Dr. Daniel Braun, Member
Dr. Fernand Grégoire, Member
Dr. Marvin Kuschner, Member
Dr. Premysl Pelnar, Scientific Secretary

Discussing some items were also present:

Mr. Ivan Sabourin, Q.C.
Dr. J.C. McDonald

The role of the Scientific Committee was discussed fir The discussion was summarized by the Chairman as follows: Cognitant o the fact that "asbestos" is a family of materials differing somewhat in their physical and chemical makeup, we believe it to have demonstra ble biological effects. We believe that knowledge concerning these effects as regards their end result, their mechanism of development, the specific material responsible for the effects or lack of effects and mechanisms of prevention, is incomplete and inadequate for the necessary understanding of the health effects of asbestos fiber and for a rational approach for controlling and prevention of such effects whatever they may be. Our Committee considers its role to be the purs

At the time of the meeting this institution was referred to as "Asbestos Health Research Council." The name having been changed since, we use the new name throughout these minutes.



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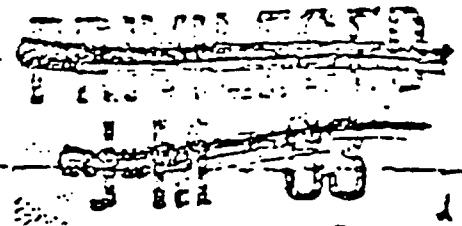
of the solution of this problem by whatever means are at its disposal. As a Committee, we do not plan to carry out what might be termed "bench work" but believe we can best serve by bringing together existing information, digesting it, reflecting upon it, stimulating and expediting the kinds of study needed for solution of the problem. We believe that other services will flow from this activity which may be of an educational and advisory nature.

The nature and mechanisms of similar scientific asbestos health committees in England was explained by Dr. Beattie. There are two institutions referred to in the monograph "Biological Effects of Asbestos" issued by the New York Academy of Sciences in 1965, namely, The Asbestosis Research Council in Cambridge and the Asbestosis Research Committee in London. Dr. Beattie explained to us that there is just one asbestosis research council. The other erroneous name refers to the same institution. The Council was appointed by three major British asbestos factories in 1958. The activities of the British Asbestosis Research Council run in three general directions. One is dust control and prevention in the factory. The second is the clinical part of the studies and the third is the basic research. Very thorough and complete studies in the first two directions -- namely in dust control and dust counts and in the clinical part of the work -- are done using the present existing facilities in the asbestos factories. In other words, these studies do not require any financial support by the Asbestosis Research Council. They accomplished a great deal in the line of introducing periodical x-ray studies of the exposed workers, the pulmonary function studies in them and they introduced a rule that no compensation can be obtained by the family of a deceased worker previously exposed to asbestos or even permission for burial unless there is an autopsy. Their major concern is the basic research which is supported financially by the Asbestosis Research Council. They do not hire persons for this kind of research as their employees but they recruit high-level people from universities and try to persuade them to devote their time to asbestos studies. Then, they refund salaries and expenses to universities where these people are employed. They are strongly convinced that it is much more efficient if they hire a man through the institution than if they support the institution as such. They support not only specific asbestos studies, but also studies which can be only related to the asbestos questions and problem The British Asbestosis Research Council has at its disposal funds obtai from industry and handles these funds independently from the industry itself. The British Council got during the years such reputation that the governmental agencies rely upon its results and its recommendations They accept the code of conduct issued by the Council and the unions have a medical advisor who is currently informed and kept in touch with the Asbestosis Research Council. Dr. Beattie informed our Committ



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also about the work being done in Cambridge and elsewhere under the support of the British Asbestosis Research Council and showed us some electron microscope pictures dealing with the subject. In the subsequent discussion, Dr. Kuschner emphasized the necessity also for our Scientific Committee to support not only subjects specifically concerned with asbestos, but also related investigations which may help to clarify asbestos problems in indirect ways. The Committee agreed with Dr. Kuschner's opinion.

The status of the Scientific Committee was discussed thoroughly. There was strong feeling that the Committee should be independent of its operation as it could manage to be. It was deemed essential that, as soon as possible, the Institute of Occupational and Environmental Health be set up as a legal entity entirely separate of the QAMA, although acknowledging its financial support. In this way, the Scientific Committee could maintain its independence from the QAMA, since it would be serving as an integral part of the Institute of Occupational and Environmental Health. Our Committee considers this organization necessary for a number of reasons. It is extremely important that the Scientific Committee establish and maintain a posture as free as possible of bias in the eyes of the scientific world. This is important in order to facilitate acceptance of our activities by the scientific world without which acceptance we cannot function effectively and we cannot attract other outstanding members for the Scientific Committee. Secondly, the establishment of an independent Institute and Scientific Committee might facilitate the attraction of financial support from other agencies in addition to the QAMA. In connection with this, the ideal location of the Institute of Occupational and Environmental Health was discussed and some opinion was expressed that the physical connection with the QAMA in the same quarters in Montreal was not too fortunate. It was believed, however, that the accomplishments and attitudes of the Scientific Committee and of the Institute of Occupational and Environmental Health would in long run dictate its position in terms of acceptance by other agencies and by the public and therefore, the housing of the Institute of Occupational and Environmental Health in the headquarters of the QAMA would probably not be a serious impediment in this regard. It seemed to the Committee that there was nothing really wrong in indicating that we, as a Committee and as an Institute, are supported by the QAMA in a legitimate and straightforward manner. In this connection also the question of who should employ the Secretary to the Scientific Committee was discussed. Since this person will be such an important figure in our activities, it is important that he be under the direction of the Committee and some mechanism for assuring this must be found. It was expressed that he might be employed by the Scientific Committee

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It was expressed then that the Scientific Committee should have an operating budget which at the outset should cover such things as the salary of the Scientific Secretary and his possible assistants, a travel allowance for members of the Committee who might well need personally to visit other laboratories and for the travel to and from meetings to be used at the discretion of the Chairman of the Scientific Committee, also to cover the expenses of appropriate housing and office supplies, etc.

The question of whether or not the Scientific Committee should become a granting agency such as seems to be the case in England was discussed. It was agreed that it would be unwise especially in its formative period if the Committee assumed this responsibility. It is felt that our Committee should recommend acceptable programs to the Institute of Occupational and Environmental Health for funding by the latter. Although the Committee itself does not want to be a granting agency at the present time at least, the Committee believes that it is essential for its activities to have in the near future a reasonable estimate of the funds available for research support in order that the Committee might engage the extent to which it could encourage by public announcement and personal intercourse the submission of research proposals and of faculty support. The Committee recognizes that the Institute of Occupational and Environmental Health is in its formative stage and it realizes that such information cannot be given at this moment. Nevertheless, the Committee believes that this information is one of the most pressing necessities of its adequate function and the same can be said for the overall program of the Institute of Occupational and Environmental Health itself.

The current arrangements in regard to Dr. Pelnar who is to serve as the Scientific Secretary were discussed fully with the members of the Committee. The sense of the Committee was that while the physical separation of Dr. Pelnar from the Chairman of the Scientific Committee might pose an interfering factor, there were off-setting gains to be had by having Dr. Pelnar in the offices of the Institute of Occupational and Environmental Health and in more immediate contact with others having a vital interest in the functions of the Institute as a whole. While there may have been some reservations in the minds of members of the Committee in connection with the location of the Scientific Secretary in Montreal, it was only felt absolutely important that he worked in close connection with the Scientific Committee.

The question was discussed whether or not publicity should be given to the formation and existence of the Institute of Occupational and Environmental Health and its Scientific Committee. It was decided to publicize that this Institute of Occupational and Environmental Health was formed and has a Scientific Committee in

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pertinent scientific journals and also in journals with broad scope like Science and Nature by a short note, but this might well be delayed until we have a more definite idea of what we can do in the way of supporting research.

As far as informing other agencies supporting research in this general field about our existence is concerned, it was decided to inform these agencies only on the basis of personal contacts of members of our Committee with members of those institutions. An exception to this was the suggestion that when we are in a better position to know about the magnitude of research support we might undertake, we should try to notify the appropriate persons in the various medical schools throughout the United States and abroad about our aims and activities in order to generate an interest on the part of scientists elsewhere in our aimed studies.

Another long discussion was devoted to the question of whether or not we should publicize some of the activities of our Committee. In this respect there was a very strong feeling that this should be very restricted. All of us are mindful of the rather poor reception given to the efforts of the tobacco industry to set up a council and a scientific committee to deal with the problem of tobacco and its effects on health. A good bit of this stems from the fact that they erroneously over-publicized the council and its committee and did it in a too wide-spread fashion. Therefore, our Committee emphasized the absolute necessity of existence of a veto power of our Committee over any publicized statements concerning the existence of the Committee and the Institute and its activities. The concern about the inappropriate publicity was very deep in the minds of the members of the Committee. A thought was given to the possibility of consulting with an experienced and conservative public relations advisor as to whether we should put anything at all in print about this and what.

The question was discussed whether our Committee and the Institute should establish any formal relations with other similar institutions concerned with the same field of study. The Committee is aware of these institutions: Asbestosis Research Council in Cambridge, England, Working Group on Asbestos and Cancer of the International Union Against Cancer, and the Canadian National Study Group on Asbestos and its Steering Committee in Ottawa under the Department of Health and Welfare. It was decided that no formal relations should be established but all forms of informal relations should be looked for especially on the basis of personal contact with members of the other committees and institutions.

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A short discussion was devoted to the suggestion of the Scientific Secretary of establishing a net of collaborators in various countries in the world who would collect information on research and publications appearing in their respective countries and send this information to the Scientific Committee and who receive in exchange the bulletin which is intended to be published by the Scientific Committee containing the information from all countries involved. It was felt that it was a good general idea but the details will be discussed during the next meeting of our Committee. It was suggested that these so-called correspondents could be invited annually or bi-annually at symposia or meetings which our Committee might organize.

In this phase Mr. Ivan Sabourin joined the Committee and attended the session which followed:

Dr. McDonald's proposal was discussed. The first discussion was whether or not we should support the unit and not a project as is more usual. It was decided that supporting a unit is all right if there is a responsible scientist in charge of this unit as Dr. McDonald is. It was decided not to discuss purely technical questions and the choice of persons whom Dr. McDonald intends to invite to co-operate in this project. It was decided that proper flexibility should be permitted in using the budget for Dr. McDonald; but for some changes, approval of the Scientific Committee will be required. A few minor questions were left for the next day when Dr. McDonald was due to appear before the Committee and discuss in person the remaining questions. The question whether co-operation of industry and employees is guaranteed for Dr. McDonald's project was answered by Mr. Sabourin in the way that this co-operation is guaranteed. After that, Dr. Beattie moved that the Scientific Committ of the Institute of Occupational and Environmental Health accept the proposal, provided some parts of the budget would be discussed in deta with Dr. McDonald. The acceptance of the proposal under this conditic was unanimously approved.

Mr. Sabourin was asked to discuss with the Committee several questions of the organizational nature. He made it as clear as he possibly could that the Scientific Committee should have independence to pursue the problem in the manner that it saw fit. He told us that the Scientific Committee so far is the only existing part of the Institute of Occupational and Environmental Health. The Institute of Occupational and Environmental Health will be establishe as a legal entity. Importance of this is recognized for various reas as stated above. After some discussion, it was decided to recommend that the Institute of Occupational and Environmental Health be the granting agency which would spend the money and the Scientific Commit

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would recommend to the Institute of Occupational and Environmental Health where this money should be spent. The funds allowed for a project would be paid to the university or institution where this project should be worked out and the university would be responsible that the money is spent properly in detail and would carry out all bookkeeping. A considerable discussion was again devoted to the question that the Scientific Committee should have a rough idea about the magnitude of funds available from the asbestos industry for pertinent research. The Scientific Committee emphasized to Mr. Sabourin the need for early establishment of other committees of the Institute of Occupational and Environmental Health and of establishin legal structure as a legal entity of the Institute of Occupational an Environmental Health itself. Our Committee urges the development of this aspect with all reasonable speed, since activities of the Scientific Committee will depend greatly on the establishment of this Institute. Our Committee takes the view that to exist as a sole representative of the Institute would place the Committee in a very difficult position.

The session was adjourned until next day.

---SECOND DAY JULY 28, 1966---

Present:

Dr. George W. Wright, Chairman
Dr. John Beattie, Member
Dr. Daniel Braun, Member
Dr. Fernand Grégoire, Member
Dr. Marvin Kuschner, Member
Dr. Premysl Pelnar, Scientific Secretary

The practical operation of the Scientific Committee wa discussed. Since it was heard from Mr. Sabourin that the Institute o Occupational and Environmental Health should have a Board of Governor composed of outstanding members of the community including repre- sentatives of the government, of unions, and also some representative

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of the state health care and maybe other physicians, it was considered necessary that the Chairman of the Scientific Committee be a member of the Board of Governors.

It was agreed that every member of the Scientific Committee should be free to travel anywhere where he feels it would be useful without any previous approval by the Committee. It is still required, though, that any member who travels anywhere give a report on his experiences to the Scientific Secretary for the files of the Committee and that he notify the Scientific Secretary in advance in order to be able to obtain from the Scientific Secretary the previous experiences of other members or any information useful for his trip. It was agreed that the Scientific Secretary should be available to all members of the Committee so long as his services were pertinent to the role of the Committee. It is not the intent of the Committee that the Scientific Secretary should perform only those duties assigne by the Committee though. In fact, direct request from the Committee for specific actions on the part of the Secretary will be relatively few. The Committee expects him to pursue the objectives of the Committee in seeking out information and stimulating work on the subje and to bring these things to the attention of the Committee periodical or at any time when the Committee itself can be of help in any way. I is expected that the Scientific Secretary will travel rather extensive for this purpose. The expected activities of the Scientific Secretary were approved according to the proposal submitted by the Chairman, Dr. Wright, in February 1966. It was understood that among his most important activities will be collecting literature, bibliography and abstracts of all articles and published works, scientific and non-scientific, pertinent to asbestos and health. The file of all this information will be kept in the Scientific Secretary's headquarters. This file and all possible information gathered by the Scientific Secretary should be available to all members of the Committee upon request. Without request, every member of the Committee will be getti a bulletin covering the bibliography of the accessions which will cove only recently appeared publications. These accessions can be accompan by the author's summary or when more appropriate, by Dr. Pelnar's summary. In this way and by rather frequent meetings, we should be ab to keep ourselves well informed. The Committee also agreed that as individuals, they should supply Dr. Pelnar with information as it came to them. The bulletin of the Scientific Committee will be sent also to all medical schools which have departments of environmental health in the United States and abroad.

The Scientific Secretary acquainted the members of the Scientific Committee with the proposed filing and retrieval system for information using the reverse system of punching cards (the commercial

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available version of it is keydex system). The scheme for filing documentation was discussed to some extent but the detailed discussion was not performed. It was suggested that the Scientific Secretary explore also other possibilities arising from the physical location of his headquarters in the IBM Building. This should enable him to use some IBM equipment under the same roof if practicable. Dr. Beattie suggested that the Scientific Secretary get in touch with Miss Simon who is a retired librarian and Professor of Library Science at McGill University and who is available for advice. The Committee, as a whole, did not consider that it is its task to decide upon the practical organization of information gathering and retrieval but suggested that this work start as soon as possible. It was explained that it already started sometime ago and that a considerable amount of information was gathered together already. Utilization of the Medlars system of gathering information which is available at the National Library of Medicine in Bethesda, Maryland, was suggested, and of course, taken into consideration.

The question of new members was discussed. It was generally agreed upon that our Committee for the present time should be rather smaller than bigger. Too many people on the Committee would not help the cause. However, it was generally agreed that Dr. Paul Kotin would be a very desirable addition to our Committee. He serves at the National Institute of Health on the experimental cancer but he will soon assume new duties having to do with the overall problem of environmental health effects. He is a very knowledgeable individual and in addition, because of his position, it was thought that he would strengthen our Committee particularly in regard to its own deliberations and moreover in regard to the acceptance of the aims of the Committee by the scientific world. There was some doubt in the minds of the Committee as to whether or not his position with the Government will permit him to take such an assignment with us. Dr. Kuschner, who is a rather close personal friend of his, was asked to explore the matter directly with Dr. Kotin prior to an official invitation to join the Committee. The question of whether or not it would be appropriate and meaningful to invite Dr. Vidal to become a full-fledge member of the Committee was also discussed. This matter was postponed until such a time as the Chairman of the Scientific Committee would have an opportunity to discuss this on a personal basis with Mr. Lindell and Mr. Sabourin. It was felt that Dr. Vidal's position would be more appropriate on the Board of Governors of the Institute of Occupational and Environmental Health.

Dr. McDonald appeared before the Committee upon an invitation to discuss several points in his proposal. It was agreed that the Scientific Committee supports the unit and does not want to intrude but is interested in what will be done. Dr. McDonald thinks

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consultation with the Scientific Committee is compatible with his complete responsibility for the project and he made it clear that he desired to maintain close relationship with the Committee for consultative purposes and to acquaint the Committee with the progress of the studies. After the discussion, Dr. McDonald agreed with restriction of the travel funds to scientific meetings from $2,000 to $750 and if he needs more, he will apply to the Committee or to the Chairman of the Committee when the Committee doesn't convene. The necessary assurance of the co-operation of workers was discussed. It was realized that there is actually no assurance of such co-operation but Dr. McDonald doesn't expect any trouble. The Institute of Occupational and Environmental Health may help in this respect, if a union representative were on its Board of Governors. A vital feature is to have French co-workers to deal with the miners. Dr. Braun promised to help with his own previous data on the same workers as well as Dr. Grégoire who made some lung function studies some twenty years ago. Dr. Wright promised to find out and send these data to Dr. McDonald. Dr. Grégoire discussed the possibility of getting some data from Workmen's Compensation Board. The measurements of radiation in the mines are not covered by the budget because the co-operation of the federal industrial hygiene is expected. The whole study will begin on October 1, 1966. Dr. McDonald will report to the Scientific Committee yearly, mostly orally. The practical application of the funds to the University will be discussed between Dr. McDonald and Mr. Sabourin. It seems that Mr. Holmes will deal with the financial part at McGill University.

Before adjourning, the Committee discussed the question of the next meeting. It was agreed that the next meeting should be some time in the fall and at that time the Committee hopes to be able to spend the major portion of its time in the consideration of the existing information and the current status of a number of research programs. Whether or not this will be possible depends greatly upon reaching the definite status for the Scientific Secretary and his head quarters within the Institute of Occupational and Environmental Health and so making him available for full time study of the existing information.

The meeting of the Scientific Committee was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

P. Pelnar, M.D.
Scientific Secretary

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Dr. Paul Cartier,
Thetford Mines, Que., Canada

REPORT ON THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESSES ON DISEASES OF THE CHEST IN COPENHAGEN AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH IN VIENNA. AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 1966.

More than 3,000 physicians from all over the world were registered at each of these meetings and among the hundred of papers presented, 9 were on Asbestosis in Copenhagen and 14 in Vienna.

In Copenhagen most of the 9 papers were rather pessimistic, many speakers repeating the statements made at the New York Symposium. It was said that any exposure, even one which lasts a few days was sufficient to be considered as a possible causal factor of any varietes of cancer, pulmonary, pleural, peritoneal, gastro-intestinal and genito-urinery. The case of the lady who washed her husband's trousers and who developed pleural mesothelioma was presented as a demonstration of this theory.

Statistics were presented showing in some hospitals that 40 to 80% of the cases with cancer of any organs were considered related to the asbestos factor either because they were found to have some asbestosis, asbestos bodies or fibers. On this general principle, if it is true that 30 to 50% of the general population of the cities have some asbestos bodies in their lungs; then 40 to 50% of most cases of cancer would be related to the asbestos factor and the recognized factors such as tobacco or the other factors of genetic or viral nature would become less important and less significative than the asbestos factor.

Dr. Meurman of Finland presented a large series of pleural plaques which apparently seems related to the number of asbestos bodies present and to a very light and even questionable asbestos exposure. On the other hand, no cases of pleural mesothelioma have been detected among the asbestos workers or among the numerous cases of pleural plaques in Finland.

Dr. Irving J. Selikoff who was the Chairman and responsible for the programme of the Copenhagen Symposium has repeated many of the statements made at the last New York Symposium, although in the appreciation of many he has been less categoric and interested to discuss the various problems. Dr. Selikoff in his remarks has given some credit to Q.A.M.A. for the interest shown for the study of the problems pertaining to the asbestos industry. It might be of some paramedical or practical interest

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o mention that as a Member of the International Committee on Occupational Diseases of the American College of Chest Physicians, I have learned that Dr. W.G. Hannon, the regular appointed Chairman of this International Committee, has been asked 3 months before the meeting to give up the Chairmanship and the planning of this Copenhagen Symposium to Dr. Selikoff.

This rather strange decision could explain why the general atmosphere of the Copenhagen Symposium was somewhat similar to the one in New York although much more friendly.

In Vienna, Drs. Noro, Vigliani and Vorwald were the chairmen of the 3 scientific sessions on Asbestosis with the result that a more profitable and liberal discussion took place. Dr. Vigliani and Dr. Vorwald have made the direct statement that the mere fact that a cancer is detected in an asbestos worker cannot be interpretated as a proof of a causal relationship between those two factors.

To Dr. Bohlig from Germany who expressed the opinion that the cases of pleural plaques can be considered as candidates to the future development of pleural mesothelioma, it was said that this hypothesis appears to be questionable because in France, Finland, Italy, Austria, Bulgaria and Belgium none of the cases of pleural plaques have so far progressed to the stage of pleural mesothelioma. The same observation prevails for the cases of pleural plaques identified in Quebec.

Dr. Lavenne, Professor at Louvain University and Physiologist at Hasselt Institute has made the remark that unfortunately there is the possibility that an unjustified hysteria similar to the one which has existed some 10 to 15 years ago concerning berylliosis and byssinosis and which has disappeared, may also exist now in the case of asbestosis and that a more complete scientific study may permit to obtain different conclusions, different from those publicized so largely in the recent medical literature.

The question of identification and of the meaning of the asbestos bodies and of asbestos fibers in the lungs has been discussed at great length. Some participants were of the opinion that the mere detection of asbestos bodies and of fibers in the lungs means asbestosis or a pathological hazard capable to become a causal factor of cancer, while a large number of others refuse to accept this viewpoint. Drs. Vigliani and Vorwald have taken a large part in this discussion mentioning that a scientific approach to the investigation of those problems is needed and that a certain prudence in the conclusions drawn should prevail.

It remains regrettable that the selection of the Chairman and of the speakers of a meeting can contribute to give such different pictures

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of the same disease. It is for a consideration of that kind that during the meeting in Vienna, it was said that it would be a mistake that the International Union against Cancer (Meeting in Tokyo October 1966) take a too exclusive control of the study of the problems related to asbestos and give at the same time a too great emphasis to the single aspect of cancer to neglect all the other aspects. For that consideration it was suggested that other qualified organizations such as the International Association on Occupational Health should also be invited to participate to this difficult task or research.

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