

g material for the covering of
shingles, roofing shingles,
lapboard and automobile un-
and commercial use of these
d in such activities, a distinct
rts in the more recent medical
ct occupational health hazards
nce of asbestosis and asbestos
kers, mixers, and sprayers, in-
ly those employed in shipyards,
stances under which asbestos
onomy make it likely that they
sociated type for other workers
ng is used.^{29,30}

os Textiles

ther vegetable or animal fibers
sively in the manufacture of
i, cloths, sheets, blankets, and
ely in industry (automobile, air-
roof safety clothing, cur-
ngs, lagging cloths, and
es. fibers and in the fabrica-
ing, stripping, mixing, bobbing,
ne exposed to asbestos dust re-
amounts of this have greatly
technologic measures in modern
uch protective procedures
stic hazards for the workers
to be seen because of the often
apse before asbestosis may be-
workers have left such hazard-
in the asbestos textile industry
trate that asbestos textile work-
ject to a distinct asbestosis and
^{31,32,33}

ng in the vicinity of such plants
atilation equipment are released
ous removal of their asbestos

s Products

y blending it with other mate-
chemicals. It is used for seals,

packing material for pumps and joints, for making paper, filter material, circuit breakers, molds, and many other articles, whose total number Selikoff *et al.*³⁴ have estimated to run at about 3,000 different items. While not all contacts with asbestos and asbestos products are associated with exposures to asbestos dust and thus may result in the development of pneumoconiosis and cancers of the lungs, pleura and peritoneum or less often of asbestos warts of the skin,³⁷⁻⁴¹ there can be little doubt that such health hazards are connected with the production, processing and handling of many of them. Their existence, however, may often not be known, recognized and appreciated by members of the medical profession, not adequately familiar with industrial practices and products.

Protection of Asbestos Workers by Workmen's Compensation Laws

Asbestos workers of several countries, acquiring as the result and in the course of their regular employment asbestosis of the lung with or without a complicating respiratory cancer, are covered by provisions of workmen's compensation laws. These occupational diseases must moreover, in some countries be reported to governmental agencies (Germany, Great Britain)^{42,43,44,47,50} It seems, however, that this type of protection applies in Great Britain to only some types of occupations but not to others. The conditions on this matter differ distinctly in the different states of the United States, where each state has its own compensation acts differing from each other to a considerable degree concerning the type of coverage and the length of the mandatory time-clause. Compensability of asbestosis was denied, for instance, in North Carolina in 1937 in a suit against the Carolina Asbestos Company by the Industrial Commission. In an appeal, this decision was confirmed by the Supreme Court of North Carolina. Legal provisions furnishing presumably adequate protection of asbestos workers against the health hazards peculiar to their occupation at the present time still leave much to be desired in many states.

CONCLUSIONS

(1) The enormous rise in the production and industrial use of asbestos during the past 50 years has resulted in markedly widened exposure to asbestos dust for a greatly increased number and variety of workers. Some of them; moreover, sustain such contacts incidentally either when being employed in various capacities in operations where asbestos products are processed, used, or handled or when working in plant areas in which an environmental pollution of the air with asbestos exists.⁵¹⁻⁵⁶

(2) The harmful effects of such growing exposures to asbestos during the past two decades are reflected not only in a growing number of reports on the occurrence of asbestosis and asbestos cancer in a variety of asbestos workers but also in the fact that such reports originate from a rising