

ESTIMATED INCIDENCE OF ASBESTOSIS

The incidence of asbestosis among employees of those plants where employees were examined in recent years, shows a marked variation as indicated by the following:

*M-L* Plant A has recorded cases diagnosed as asbestosis to the extent of about 20 per cent, and in the past nine years has compensated, on the average, two cases per annum. Total textile employment about 400.

Plant C on the basis of a recent systematic survey, estimates asbestosis incidence to be about three to four per cent.

Plant D has results from an incomplete survey in which four cases were found among those volunteering for examination with a total textile employment of around 150. They have compensated one case in about 10 years. Three more are pending.

*J-K* Plant H with a textile employment of 300 finds five or six cases annually that the physician believes show early changes due to asbestos.

Plant J has counted potential cases of asbestosis amounting in number to about 20 per cent, comparable with Plant A.

The other plants have conducted no systematic x-ray surveys of their own and have no information as to incidence among their employees. None of these has had cases requiring compensation.

While we have no complete data on history of employment and labor turnover in the several plants, it is apparent that there is, at least superficially, a marked inconsistency in this picture. Also, it is clear that