ASBESTOS TEXTILE INSTITUTE

AIR HYGIENE COMMITTEE
December 1, 1954



Members Present:

B. W. Luttenberger
D. R. Holmes
R. B. Smith
H. H. Jackson

The Committee discussion was primarily a review of the activities of the last two years, discussion of projects currently under consideration and development of plans for the future meetings.

The programs for the study of the relationship of heart disability to asbestosis outlined by Dr. Theodos and the autopsy studies by Dr. Schepers were reviewed in detail. Both programs have been approved in principle by the Board of Governors. However, the effectiveness of each program depends on each member company's willingness and desire to participate. Both activities would function primarily through the company-related doctor and would be of considerable benefit both to the individual member and to the Institute as a whole.

For example, the usual case which would be involved in either program would be an actual or potential compensation claim. The results of the study, therefore, would be of considerable value to the member company in that the objective findings would assist in establishing and limiting the extent of workmen's compensation liability. A series of such studies would be of benefit to the Institute membership through the knowledge gained concerning the disease process, its relationship to other factors, and the development of improved techniques of medical control.

The implimentation of both programs would require that each member company would underwrite the modest expense for each of its own cases and authorize a policy which would permit its company-related doctor to arrange for these studies in appropriate cases.

The Air Hygiene Committee will communicate with each member company and outline the details of the program and procedures. The acceptance or rejection of the programs will be determined by the response of the members and reported on at the next meeting.

It is urged that each one consider the proposals favorable. There are wide gaps in our knowledge of the disease potential and control. Animal experiments have and can contribute to our understanding, but the two approaches recommended will be of great value.

The research proposal from Dr. Schepers for investigation into the relationship of asbestos and pulmonary cancer is anticipated prior to our next meeting. Asbestos as a cancer-producing agent is receiving international attention and as indicated by a Speech of Dr. W. C. Hueper of the National Cancer Institute before the International Association of Accident Boards and Commissions. In

his paper on industrial carcinogens, Dr. Hueper referred frequently to asbestos and almost all of the slides used to demonstrate pulmonary cancer were of cases involving both asbestosis and cancer. The subject is of considerable importance to the Institute members and the proposal will be reviewed in detail.

The Committee Agreed unanimously that they would continue the inquiry into engineering control of dusts. Subjects proposed for future discussions included:

a. methods of determining performance efficiency and maintenance of ventilating systems

b. controls at the fiber batching

c. methods of bag handling and dumping.

It was agreed that each member would continue to report ventilation design changes throughout the process and evaluate the effectiveness with both visual observation and dust counts before and after the change.

Announcement was made of the McIntyre-Saranac Symposium on pulmonary diseases to be held at Saranac Lake February 7 to 9, 1955. The program is an excellent one including several papers on asbestosis, and it was urged that member companies consider attendance for their company-related doctor or air hygienist.

H. H. Jackson