MODERATOR'S SUMMARIZATION

(Morning Session)

W. Clark Cooper, M.D.

Summarizing this session is an easy and pleasant assignment. Much of what we have heard is negative or is a promise of studies to come. The important thing to emphasize is that serious work of this nature is underway, and a year or two from now we should have even more substantial evidence. The probable growth potential of the fibrous glass industry makes it imperative to keep on top of this from a health standpoint. All of the speakers are to be congratulated on their clear and succinct presentations which made the work of the moderator so painless.

Several points brought up in the discussion deserve emphasis: (1) Dr. Spiel's caution to us that fibrous glass is a generic term and that in our reports and studies we must clearly differentiate fiber classifications and sizes; (2) Mr. Stein's reminder that the lungs of workers exposed in the past should be studied to determine the amounts and size distribution of glass fibers that may be present, as sizes have not been so narrowly controlled to ensure non-respirability; and (3) Dr. Mancuso's valuable suggestion that successive cohorts should be studied to get maximum epidemiologic return on the relatively small populations of exposed workers.

I want to thank the Industrial Hygiene Foundation for providing this forum for discussion and applaud the enlightened cooperation of those in the industry who are working together to supply much needed documentation of exposures and responses to fibrous glass in its various forms.

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