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CHEMICAL & ENGINEERING NEWS
June 1, 1970

A garbled news report based on a reference which was vague in the first place. In his paper, under the heading "Therapy" Selikoff did not "announce progress." He noted three areas of investigation which "should be further explored." The brief mention of these speculations was preceded by the following passage:

"Diffuse mesotheliomas has proven invariably fatal and asbestos lung cancer almost as hopeless. This makes prophylaxis by environmental control essential."

Did Selikoff intend to imply a qualitative difference between "asbestos lung cancer" and lung cancer associated with other carcinogens?

significant interference with the incorporation of thymidine into deoxyribonucleic acid and with uptake of glucose in hydrocortisone-sensitive cells isolated from the lymphoid tumor, lymphosarcoma P1798. Hindrance of glucose uptake is significant within an hour and precedes inhibition of incorporation of thymidine into DNA, J. M. Rosen told the 10th International Cancer Congress in Houston last week.

Meanwhile, progress in treating asbestos-induced lung cancer—an almost hopeless disease—was announced by Dr. Irving J. Selikoff of the Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, City University of New York, at the Houston Cancer Congress. Limited trials of cyclophosphamide in man have not been as promising so far as its use of the compound to retard transplanted experimental mesotheliomas in hamsters. Work continues with ribonucleic acid which gave initial useful results in pleural mesothelioma but not a persistent effect.

More evidence on biochemical causes of schizophrenia has appeared in work at the Galesburg State Research Hospital, Galesburg, Ill. Speaking at a symposium on the chemistry of the brain at the Parkside campus of the University of Wisconsin, Dr. Harold E. Himwich reported stimulating delusions in schizophrenic patients upon administering two drugs. These are tranylcypromine, a monoamine oxidase inhibitor, and L-cysteine, a natural amine in

burg comments. Airborne asbestos particles are now entering the limelight of public concern. These may lead to lung cancer, mesothelioma, and cancer of the peritoneum or the pleura, notes Dr. Robert Ricks, recently appointed Air Resources Commissioner for the City of New York.

Apart from being a potential health hazard by themselves, minute particles of asbestos adsorb molecules of gases such as sulfur dioxide on their surface. When inhaled, the particles with the adsorbed gas can lodge deep in the air passages of the lungs where they can cause severe irritation.

Spurring the concern is the rapidly growing practice by office construction teams of using asbestos-sprayed techniques for insulating buildings. Last April, Dr. Ricks issued a 10-point order that specifies precautions to be taken and operating procedures that must be followed to minimize the danger of getting too much of the asbestos dust into the air.

The adverse effects of air pollutants on crop and plant life can be measurably assessed than they can for humans. In one of a series of carefully controlled field experiments, for instance, Dr. O. Clifton Taylor, acting director of the University of California Statewide Air Pollution Research Center in Riverside, with Dr. C. Ray Thompson and coworkers, have been studying the effects that oxidants—mainly ozone, nitrogen oxides and PAN's—that occur in photochemical smog have on the growth and fruit yield of citrus trees. Around some

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