FILE NAME: ICI (ICI)

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ICI (Imperial Chemical Industries)

ICI's former physician employee who now does consulting is Dr. Alexander Munn. He lives at The Cottage, Crown Lane, Benson, Oxfordshire OX9 6LP, and my associate Robin Howie is going to look up his phone number for us, too.

A most interesting discovery of Robin's was obtained in his inquiries, namely that the authors of a chapter on carcinogens in a 1956 text was written by an ICI physician, MW Goldblatt and his relative Judith Goldblatt. The chapter is in a book edited by none other than ERA Merewether, medical inspector of factories and famous author of things asbestos, and the chapter is thorough in its review of the literature. Included is a 1951 case described at length from US authors Stoll, Bass, and Angrist, of an insulator who developed both asbestosis and lung cancer after "only 6 years of covering pipes with asbestos" (217). Another case from Italy is described, where a 40-year-old man was autopsied and found to have extensive asbestosis after having been an insulator for 22 years (218). The Goldblatts conclude that "we may for practical purposes regard asbestos or a derivative of asbestos as a probable co-carcinogen…"(224)

We are attempting to nail down Goldblatt's employment at ICI when this was written, and R Howie has found a reference to him in 1955 in the Br. J. Ind. Med. as a company doc with ICI. We will also check for author identification in Vol. 1 of Merewether's text (this chapter is in Vol. 3, the last), which is unavailable today but will be examined later this week.

Inquiries are also being made about occupational health and safety officials at ICI, living or dead, from the 1960s.