

and cholesterol. The most striking finding was an increase in phospholipids, maximum at about 2 weeks after injection of quartz, both in the peritoneum and the lungs. As a second step, phospholipids were extracted from pulmonary silicotic lesions and re-injected intraperitoneally in other animals. Despite repeated injections for 16 days, no peritoneal lesions were found, the only abnormality being a splenomegaly.

-- APCA Absts.

- 754 Is There a Relationship Between Silicosis and Histoplasmosis? W. S. Cortes, et al. *Diseases of Chest* 41, 645-651 (June 1962).

It is probable that there is infrequent coexistence of chronic pulmonary histoplasmosis and silicosis. Apparently, silicosis has little effect on benign histoplasmosis, since fewer patients are admitted to the sanatorium from an area of high silicosis incidence than from other areas. It is true that this is also an area of a lower rate of histoplasmin-skin reactivity, but the rate is still high. Further determination of the possible effect of silicosis on the progress of chronic pulmonary histoplasmosis will depend on a diligent search for the accumulation of follow-up data on many more cases such as are presented in this paper.

-- Authors' conclusions.

- 755 The Constitutional Factor in Asbestosis. H. Bohl, G. Jacob and H. Müller. *Arch. Gewerbepathol. Gewerbehyg.* 18, 596-609 (1961). German.

The possibility of individual, family or racially conditioned susceptibility to certain diseases has long been discussed. It has been considered in relation to silicosis in a number of papers (Bull. Hyg. 30, 378 (1955)) which are mentioned and discussed in the present paper. In asbestosis, however, because of there being considerably fewer industrial concerns in which asbestos dust is a risk, the literature is scantier than that of silicosis and very few instances of asbestosis among members of the same family have been reported. There are given here detailed family histories and clinical particulars of members of 3 families—2 brothers in each of 2 families and 2 sisters in 1 family—all of whom suffered from the effects of exposure to asbestos in the course of their employments. In addition there is a description with many references of the morbidity of asbestosis and its relation to length of period of exposure to asbestos dust at work. The records of the 6 patients in all of whom x-ray examination showed definite asbestosis were: (1) two brothers died after 18 to 25 years' exposure to asbestos, one of bronchial carcinoma and the other of a pleural tumor; (2) two sisters after 32 to 35 years' exposure were alive, aged 84 and 82 years, but had shortness of breath and bronchial catarrh; and (3) two brothers had only 3 to 4 years' exposure to asbestos and were alive at over 62 years of age. Both of them suffered from some shortness of breath and cough. On this evidence the opinion expressed is that personal constitution plays no part in susceptibility to asbestosis but does influence the progress of the condition.

-- Bull. Hyg.

- 756 The Effect of Massive Doses of Vitamin B₂ on the Development and Course of Experimental Silicosis in Albino Rats. M. I. Razumov, B. K. Skirko and I. U. Grubina. *Arkh. Patol.* 23, 55-62 (1961). Russian.

This investigation is a continuation of the work in which it was shown that only crystalline forms of quartz are dangerous from the viewpoint of silicosis hazards. The following hypothesis was put forward: dust particles interact with the pulmonary tissue due to their piezoelectric properties. As a result of this, disturbances of the tissue metabolic processes take place leading to the development of fibrosis. Since riboflavin takes an active part in the redox processes, experiments were staged to analyze the effect of large doses of the vitamin (250 micrograms) on the development of experimental silicosis in white rats. As shown, administration of riboflavin in large doses to silicotic animals accelerated the development of the pathological process (the fibrous foci in the lung formed earlier than in control animals).

(Authors' English Summary) -- APCA Absts.