Table 6 shows the average age and length of employment of the cases of fibrosis in the groups of processes previously dealt with (p. 11).

TABLE 6.

Process.	Cases of Fibrosis.	
	Average Age.	Average Length of Employment
1. Crushing, opening, disintegrating, mixing ...	43·1	10·9
2. Carding	39·6	13·2
3. Spinning, twisting, doubling, plaiting, &c. ...	37·0	16·7
4. Mattress making	38·1	13·0
5. Weaving and associated processes	43·5	12·7
6. Miscellaneous processes and remaining unclassified workers.	42·1	13·8
Totals		13·5

The much longer average period of employment of the cases of fibrosis in group 3 as compared with the other groups will be noted. There is also least exposure to dust in group 3. It seems, therefore, that in this group a longer period elapsed before the fibrosis developed, or that it progressed less rapidly.

This is the more apparent if the incidence rates of fibrosis amongst workers employed in the processes in group 3 are compared with the corresponding rates for workers employed in the more dusty processes comprised in groups 1, 2, 4, 5, taken together. These rates are set out in Table 7.

TABLE 7.—*Comparison between the Incidence Rates of Fibrosis amongst Workers employed in Group 3 (less dusty processes) and the Incidence Rates amongst Workers employed in Groups 1, 2, 4, 5, taken together (more dusty processes).*

	Years Employed.														
	0–4.			5–9.			10–14.			15–19.			20 and over.		
	No. Examined.	Cases of Fibrosis.	Incidence Rate.	No. Examined.	Cases of Fibrosis.	Incidence Rate.	No. Examined.	Cases of Fibrosis.	Incidence Rate.	No. Examined.	Cases of Fibrosis.	Incidence Rate.	No. Examined.	Cases of Fibrosis.	Incidence Rate.
			Per cent.			Per cent.			Per cent.			Per cent.			Per cent.
Group 3	30	0	—	40	2	5·0	30	2	6·7	11	4	36·4	6	4	66·7
Groups 1, 2, 4, 5 (taken together).	47	0	—	92	31	33·7	45	22	48·9	14	8	57·1	13	11	84·6

Group 3 = Spinning, twisting, doubling, plaiting, etc.
Groups 1, 2, 4, 5 = Crushing, etc., carding, mattress making and weaving and associated processes.

It will be seen that, after 5 years' employment, the rates are consistently much higher amongst those employed in the more dusty processes, and, whereas the rate is high from about 5 years onwards in the more dusty processes, it is not until about the 15th year of employment is reached in the less dusty processes that the rate for the latter becomes high, and approximates to that reached after about 5 years' employment in the more dusty processes.

Exposure to different concentrations of dust, together with the effect of the recognition of the cases of fibrosis in different stages of the disease, also afford an explanation of the widely differing lengths of employment of individual cases of fibrosis, which ranged from 5 years to over 30. While no definite case of fibrosis clearly due to asbestos dust was found amongst workers with less than 5 years exposure, the possibility of such cases occurring with