

The year 1965, in my opinion, is the milestone year. Prior to that date, a strong argument can be made that the State of the Art, at least insofar as insulation workers are concerned, was not such as to put an insulation manufacturer on notice of the extreme hazard involved in the use of his product. After 1965, he should have known. Since 1965, there have been many studies made, and it is now universally recognized that the insulation worker runs a great risk of contracting asbestosis.

A recognition of the connection between malignant mesothelioma and exposure to asbestos fibers came a little later. This may be defined as a malignant tumor, arising from the mesothelia surface lining. Certainly by 1971 the occupational incidence of mesothelioma had been well documented, and the medical community added mesothelioma to asbestosis as a disease which could be attributed to asbestos exposure, even in insulation workers.^{9/}

The development of information concerning lung cancer came somewhat later, although here again there were isolated reports of lung cancer in asbestos textile workers and miners. Once again, Dr. Selikoff's work was of great importance. He

^{9/} Selikoff, I. J. and Lee, D. H. K., "Asbestos and Disease," Academic Press, N. Y., 1978, Chapters 1 and 10.