It is apparent from the table that the lung cancer death rate for the eight counties immediately surrounding the asbestos-producing areas is practically identical with that of eight counties selected for comparison. While Megantic County has a rate nearly twice that of the combined eight selected counties, it is lower than the rate for the Province, and considerably lower than the rate for Montreal. The figure for Montreal would certainly be higher except for the very low numbers of deaths reported for 1950 and 1951, and it would appear that in those years some error in reporting has undoubtedly been made. On the basis of the other years, 1950 and 1951 deaths would be expected to be about 200 greater. This would result in a rate of 40 per 100,000.

The only possible conclusion from this comparison is that there is no evidence that the persons who live and work in the counties surrounding and adjacent to the asbestos-producing areas have any greater incidence of lung cancer than those who live elsewhere in the Province.

Comment re

Discussion of All Recorded Lung Cancer Cases, Living and Dead, Among the Asbestos Miners

Although a simple enumeration of all the known or suspected cases of cancer of the lung in these areas has no particular value from a statistical point of view, it is of interest to summarize such cases for the record. There were nine deaths prior to the beginning of the time period covered by the study, including one in which the diagnosis was mediastinal lymphosarcoma.

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