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SEC 2 837

Extract from letter to Mr. J. Waddell, from Dr. J. F. Knox,
dated 22nd October, 1957.

Dear Mr. Waddell,

Asbestosis and Lung Cancer

Letter 9/23/57 from Wm. E. Shoemaker

This letter makes observations under three headings
and I will use the same in reply.

(a) Evidence with regard to the frequency of lung cancer
in a group of workers must be statistical as it concerns
the incidence of a condition to which the whole community
is liable.

(b) Conclusive evidence on the production of lung cancer
in laboratory animals from exposure to asbestos dust has not
yet been obtained. In the case of some such studies which
were initiated by the American industry support was with-
drawn at the interim stage because of the way the results
seemed to be going. In this and in other cases mice were
used and these have not proved susceptible to the production
of asbestosis by inhalation. Asbestosis in its advanced
stages has not been reproduced in the experimental animal.

When human lung cancer appears in association with
asbestosis it comes as a late complication in an established
case.

(c) I have seen the journal from which the abstract was
obtained. The paper quoted was one of many delivered on
the occasion of the 44th Annual Meeting of the American Asso-
ciation of Pathologists and Bacteriologists at Washington D.C.

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on April 11th, 12th and 13th, 1957.

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The remarks about Dr. Hueper are unworthy. He was asked on this occasion, as an eminent authority and the author of several books relating to occupational tumours to act as Chairman of a Symposium. Concerning the "atmosphere" being "favourably charged" I do not see the relevance of this remark. It is the audience who make the atmosphere and this was composed of the members of a scientific society who are established pathologists.

The relevant section of the Public Health Monograph No.36. is of interest. It is quite sound in its insistence that what we are talking about is increased incidence of lung cancer in cases of asbestosis. In the Doll paper all the cases had asbestosis as well as lung cancer. The importance of this is that by diminishing asbestosis we diminish lung cancer. There is evidence that we have already done this.