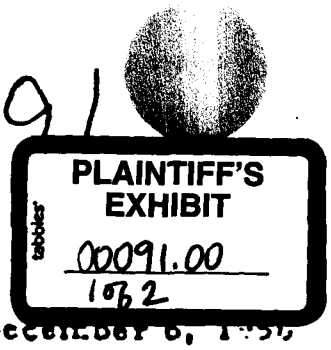




December 6, 1953

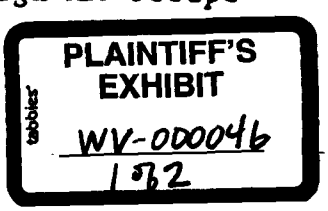
Mr. Hugh M. Jackson, Manager
Industrial Health Program
Johns-Manville Corporation
22 East 40th Street
New York 16, New York

Dear Hugh:

At the time of our Annual Meeting you and I discussed the status of the ATI study, and I promised to send you material which might be helpful. I realize that you will not be using it until January or February, but thought I would send you what we turned up immediately. We will continue to search and will send you anything more that we find before the time of your meeting.

In the American Journal of Medicine for November 1953, Isselbacher, Klaus, and Hardy have an article entitled, "Asbestosis and Bronchogenic Carcinoma". They report one case but review the literature and they state that "about 10,000 workers are probably engaged in potentially hazardous asbestos manufacturing operations in the United States. Most of the industry is engaged in asbestos textile manufacturing....." As early as 1936 Lanza estimated that about 12,000 individuals were employed in the chief asbestos plants in the United States, of whom 10,000 might be exposed. Hinshaw and Garland in their book, "Diseases of the Chest", just off the press, state in part "exposure occurs in industrial plants where asbestos products are fabricated and among those who install insulating materials; the spinning and weaving of asbestos in combination with other textiles also results in exposure".

The Isselbacher article collects 20 cases including their own, of which 10 apparently occurred in this country. The occupations of these 10 cases were as follows: three weavers, two pipe insulators, one pipe coverer, one asbestos mill worker and sorter, and three not known. The occupations of the other 10 (foreign) cases were as follows: spinner; mattress and opening departments; packer-stores department; carder, spinner, and weaver; pre-spinning-assembly room; machine adjuster; bagger; pipe coverer; "asbestos worker"; and one who spent 18 years in an asbestos plant although the occupation is not given.



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One conclusion of this article is that asbestos is associated with bronchogenic carcinoma in 13.3% of the cases cited in the literature.

Doll, "Mortality from Lung Cancer in Asbestos Workers", British Journ. Ind. Med., April 1955, presents data on 18 cases of lung cancer diagnosed at autopsy among 105 consecutive autopsies of workers in a large asbesto works. Fifteen of the 18 had asbestosis and three did not. These individuals were not miners, of course, and their occupations included: nine weavers, three fiberizers, two disintegrators, one bag carrier, two spinners, and one maintenance man. In addition, we have found articles reporting at least seven other cases, mostly in the foreign literature and many of which do not specify the occupation.

L. W. Smith, "Pneumoconiosis and Lung Cancer", Compensation Medicine, November 1949, states that the American and English figures correspond so closely that it becomes more and more difficult to absolve asbestos as a potential factor in the development of pulmonary cancer. He quotes a recent editorial in the JAMA as follows: "As the available evidence shows that the occurrence of cancer of the lung is related to pulmonary asbestosis and is not merely a possible sequela of exposure to asbestos dust.....", and states that claims for compensation will become of increasing frequency due to the general increase of carcinoma of the lung.

I hope that this material will be helpful to you in enlightening the representives of the textile industry. We will continue to send "ammunition" as we uncover it.

With kindest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

Daniel C. Braun, M.D.
Medical Director

DCB:lf

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