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Summary

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Brief Informations
from the General Hospital in Hamburg-Bergedorf

On Asbestosis

by Prof. Albert Bohne

The article by prof. Bohne is a summary of clinical findings obtained from his examinations of patients suffering from lung disease due to inhalation of asbestos dust.

1. All persons who work in asbestos plants become victims to some type of asbestosis regardless of the length of time of their employment.
2. The type and nature of the illness must be assessed on the basis of an individual's physical pre-dispositions.
3. It will remain impossible to ever, completely, eliminate the formation of asbestos dust.
4. On examination, patients complain mainly of coughing with expectoration, shortness of breath at the slightest exertion.
5. Examination of expectorated sputum showed asbestos bodies being present in even the smallest amount of the examined sputum.
6. The prognostic outlook for recovery of patients stricken with asbestosis remains critical. There are no remedies known that could halt the progression of asbestosis.
7. It is a well-known fact, that only the most severe cases are con-

sidered for workmen's compensation. To this date, legislative bodies refrain from being specific as to what constitutes a severe case.

8. It is very difficult to justify asbestosis on medical grounds/as ^{by citing it} the principle contributing factor of the illness, since it is not ^{considered} included ~~to be~~ a pathological symptom in the overall evaluation of the patient's physical condition.

9. Medical diagnosis is, therefore, regarded as being insufficient in determining the degree of severity of asbestosis. Additional evidence is required from the supervisors who must assess the working conditions, the worker's capacity to carry out his assigned work-load and determine his earning power on the basis of work out-put.

10. It would be well to drop the concept of severity and, instead, evaluate each case of asbestosis on the amount of work the stricken worker can handle and to consider his loss of earning power as his physical capacities diminish.

NOTE: Throughout the article, there is no reference to the development of cancer.

Article below has nothing to do with asbestosis.