

The occupation-related Cancer of the Asbestos Workers
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with 6 illustrations in the text
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The asbestosis, the occupation-related disease of the asbestos workers, is naturally tied to countries and cities which have erected asbestos processing plants. The knowledge about this strange disease is somewhat older and more extensive in England and in the US from what it is here. But even in 1906 Marchand demonstrated an asbestos lung to the German Pathological Association, without, however, recognizing it as such. Eight years later Fahr showed a second case and explained it correctly in the most important characteristics.

In the past ten years the disease has been studied especially in England, the US, and Germany, and we are familiar, here and abroad, with extensive routine mass examinations of asbestos workers. In Germany, one case especially, which was observed by Beger and Strobe, brought important progress, because Beger examined the asbestosis from the mineralogical angle in great detail, and with that triggered corresponding studies in other places. (Koppenhoefer, Sundius).

After long years of asbestos dust, asthmatic symptoms develop and painful death occurs, since the right side of the heart is paralyzed. A considerable number of cases is found, similarly to the silicosis, in association with pulmonary tuberculosis (Egbert, Wood), and there are everywhere reports about cases, where the asbestosis was combined with a carcinoma of the lungs (Wood, Gloyne, 1933).

The number of necropsies is small everywhere, but they have been very much on the rise lately. In Germany, there are, up to now, as far as I know, 9 cases that were dissected or published respectively (Marchand, Fahr, Loeschke, Strobe - Beger, die Biasi, Wedler, Boehme, 2 of the author).

Although the literature now and then mentions cases of carcinoma, there are only three publications from the US and England that deal in some detail with the problem of cancer in the asbestosis lung, and who express with care, which should always be exercised in the beginning, the suspicion of a causal link of the two diseases. The far-reaching consequences for our insurance system make it necessary to discuss those papers in a few words, before we report two observations of our own. The collection of the 6 cases and the other mentioned cancers in

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