Item 7(e)v

Turner & Newall Limited
Board Meeting - 15th November 1945

The Asbestosis Fund

Report for the year to
30th September 1945

The usual statistical statements are attached hereto and on pages 3 to 7 hereof will be found certain particulars extracted therefrom with comments on various points submitted for the information of the Board. As regards such comments, it appears advisable to draw the Board's attention particularly to the following.

1. The fact that the compensation payments (as was the case last year) represent a substantial increase, this being largely due to two lump sum payments having been made, partly for policy reasons as the two employees concerned are comparatively young. Even if these two lump sum payments are disregarded, the normal compensation payments amount to a larger figure than usual.

2. The Board may wish to consider whether any increase in the contributions made by J. W. Roberts Ltd. should be made, or whether this question can be deferred for a further year.

3. The particulars with regard to the average cost of all claims by Companies and in the aggregate (shewn on page 5 hereof) are interesting and it will be noted that of the 58 completed claims only six have cost more than £600.

The four cases which have cost more than £1,000 are represented by three lump sum settlements (Presland of N.I.Co.Ltd., Trueman of T.B.A.Co.Ltd. and O'Keefe of T.A.C.Co.Ltd.) and the fourth case is that of G. T. Wilson of J.W.R.Ltd. which was a normal case where payments were made until his death.

4. The fact that, as the Directors are aware, the Medical Board is considerably in arrear with its work.

5. Asbestosis Regulations - Insulation Contract Work on board ship

Although this annual report as to the Asbestosis Fund is largely statistical, I think that mention should be made of the letter recently received from the Chief Factory Inspector by J. W. Roberts Ltd. as to the risk of asbestosis among employees engaged on insulation contract work on board ship. The letter relates mainly to the use of the Roberts Spray Machines, in whose case appropriate precautions have been taken for some time, but it also suggests the use of respirators by employees engaged in applying on board ship any insulation products containing asbestos. No suggestion has previously been made that the Asbestosis Regulations ought to apply to finished products.

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and, as the whole question is of considerable importance and might affect N.I.Co.Ltd. and perhaps other Unit Companies very seriously, a long reply has been sent to the Chief Factory Inspector by Turner & Newall Ltd., explaining the position and pointing out that in fact no asbestosis cases have ever occurred amongst N.I.Co.Ltd's contract employees. We are now waiting for a reply from the Chief Factory Inspector.

JOHN L. COLLINS.

5th November 1945.