

Engineering. -- Mechanical methods were seen in use in one or more plants which effected practical dust control in all operations, bringing dust concentrations down to five million or lower with one or two exceptions. It is proposed to prepare formal detailed descriptions of these methods for general distribution to members of Asbestos Textile Institute.

Medical Supervision of Workers. -- Only five plants have had any medical x-ray surveys of employees. In the others, therefore, there is a serious lack of information as to the incidence of asbestosis. The lack is more serious, in a sense, because in most of these plants no compensable cases of asbestosis have occurred to draw attention of top management to the problem. While the medical survey conducted by one plant recently shows only about three per cent of the employees with asbestosis, two other plants appear to have about 20 per cent of their employees affected.

Medical supervision of workers in this industry is of utmost importance for the protection of both employee and employer, not to mention other considerations. Therefore, it is strongly recommended that each plant institute a program of medical and x-ray examinations of all exposed workers as early as practical.

Physical Testing (Dust Counts, etc.) -- The "maximum permissible dustiness" for asbestos is commonly taken to be five million particles per cubic foot. This represents good attainment in the dust control program. It is emphasized, however, that dust elimination to this extent does not positively insure that no asbestosis will develop in some workers after a long working life (greater than 20-25 years). Scientific evidence is obscure on this point. It is recommended, therefore, that studies be initiated aimed to develop another