small for statistical evaluation. In 1947, Wegelius [200] reported 126 radiologically diagnosed cases of asbestosis among 476 workers in Finland, and found no cases of lung cancer in this group. Goldblatt and Goldblatt in their section of Merewether's latest book, [95] state:

"But at no stage in all these impressive researches was any clue obtained which might have offered any support to the possibility that asbestos could act as a carcinogen. There is no reliable criterion by which one can anticipate carcinogenicity and, as is well known, relatively minute changes in the structure of a chemical carcinogen are sufficient to diminish or eliminate carcinogenic action.

If asbestos is indeed to be regarded as a carcinogen, the need is felt to demonstrate some property which can be regarded as something more than inertness."

These authors advance the theory that, until some more experimental evidence of direct carcinogenesis by asbestos or a decomposition product of it can be obtained, asbestos might be considered as a "co-carcinogen" which only induces a further development of a preneoplastic condition brought about by something independent of the asbestos, such as an endogenous factor.

Thus the literature, while tending to support the thesis that asbestosis is in some way related to the development of lung cancer, is by no means unanimous. Altogether, it is perhaps more confusing than enlightening.