crocidolite, and amosite. Chrysotile is Canadian asbestos and, as previously stated, is largely magnesium silicate. Crocidolite and amosite contain only a very small quantity of magnesium, containing instead iron silicate in approximately the same quantity.

The three types of asbestos produced the same type of reaction - namely the one described by this investigator as inert. "We have been assuming," he states, "that the dusts producing this inert reaction cause pneumoconiosis of the diffuse fibrosis type as distinct from the proliferative reacting dusts which cause nodular fibrosis. This assumption, as you know, has not been proven by corresponding animal experiments with the same dusts, but results from observation of pathologic material from autopsies." He further states, "I believe that the gross behavior of asbestos in the tissues has further strengthened the value of our classification of dusts and the intraperitoneal test as a means of determining the harmful dusts by its clinical correlation."

Much work remains to be done before we can speak as authoritatively about asbestos as we do about silica. In the meantime, asbestos plants are being cleaned up and the dust controlled. This, together with the small number of persons employed, implies that we will probably never have the wealth of clinical material that has been available in silicosis. It is by no means certain that asbestosis progresses as does silicosis after withdrawal from dust exposure, nor does infection seem to be as closely and intimately associated with asbestosis as with silicosis. The answer to these and other problems resulting from exposure to silicate dusts demands further study both in the field and in the laboratory.

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