that a membrane exists at the point of contact between the elastin fiber and this granular layer, but if so it must be very closely apposed to the fiber. It seems certain, however, that no membrane exists between the pale granular layer and the rest of the cell cytoplasm. Some of the ferruginous bodies from glass and aluminum silicate were also separated from the cytoplasmic organelles by a pale granular area (Fig 7). In this case a membrane was sometimes present between the body and the granular area, but never betwen this area and the rest of the cytoplasm. These pale granular areas are very similar to the structure of pseudopodia of ameboid cells and were reported in lung macrophages by Collet and Reuet-Normand in 1967.[17] To find that such areas occasionally remain for some time around large particles is perhaps not surprising.

Comment

The finding that the fine structure of ferruginous bodies formed from a number of different mineral fibers is identical to that of genuine asbestos bodies reemphasized the suggestion of Gross et al in 1967 that it is extremely difficult to distinguish

Fig 8.—Area from center of mass of elastin fibers in guinea pig pleural cavity. There is slight infiltration of fibroblasts between elastin fibers and some deposition of collagen or reticulin. The variability of impregnation of elastin fibers is shown by fact that while three fibers are almost completely impregnated and appear black in photograph, one large fiber (F) shows no signs of impregnation at all (× 9,000).



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