Graham[6], in 1951, says, "Bronchogenic carcinoma differs from other cancers in two important respects: (1) it has shown an enormous increase in the last 35 years; (2) there has been a progressively larger incidence in the male sex."

He states that Adler in 1912 could collect only 374 cases of cancer of the lung from the world's literature, while individual experiences in this country greatly exceed that total of reported cases from the whole world, and that cancer of the lung has advanced to a position of first place in men from one of 8th place in frequency - and this all within the last 35 or 40 years.

Doll and Hill[7] refer to a British government report which shows that for the 25 year period from 1922 to 1947 the incidence of lung cancer in autopsies in England and Wales increased fifteen times over what it had been previously.

An editorial note in The Lancet in January, 1952, strikes a similar note in referring to Hill's report that "in at least 17 out of 29 boroughs (metropolitan), deaths from neoplasm of the lung and bronchus were more numerous than deaths from tuberculosis" and in remarking "This is something quite new."

Smith[8], in 1952, states that lung cancer has shown an increase over and above what could be expected as a result of increases in numbers of elderly persons. He states also that high lung mortality has been recorded for both men and women patients with asbestosis in England.

Perhaps a personal note is permissible to illustrate the apparently universal experience in autopsy services during the last forty years that carcinoma of the lung has changed from a rarity to a commonplace. As a resident in the Philadelphia General Hospital

SPM 2107