

NOTE. CONCLUSIONS

Due to the vast amount of data included in this report it seems most convenient to state the conclusions derived from the investigation and, when necessary, follow each one with a brief review of the evidence.

- A. Various forms of asbestos fibers produce a peribronchiolar fibrosis of the lungs of guinea pigs, rats, cats and rabbits but not of mice and dogs.

Both inhalation and injection experiments provide ample support for this conclusion. Figures 5 and 6 show the reaction to two different kinds of asbestos mineral.

- B. The mode of action appears to be primarily mechanical rather than chemical in nature.

The evidence is given in section LXXIII. Figures 1, 2, 3, 4 and 7 illustrate the important points. The fibrous filamented structure of asbestos appears to play an essential part in the irritating action, since the solid fibers of glass wool do not produce fibrosis (see Figure 8).

- C. Short asbestos fibers do not produce fibrosis.

The conclusion is implied in the evidence mentioned in paragraph B above. Experiments which further support this finding are reported in Tables 21 and 23.

- D. Typical fibrosis can be produced by an atmospheric suspension of asbestos dust containing only an extremely small proportion of long fibers.

In the inhalation experiment with 100 per cent ball-milled asbestos dust a typical, though delayed, fibrosis was