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Notes on Papers at 13th International Congress on Occupational Health

1. Bronchitis is often associated with Pneumoconisis (& Silicosis).

2. There is no consistant relationship between silicosis exposure and bronchitis--only with heavier smokers and very high dust exposure is there such a relationship.

3. Dr. Eugene P. Pendergrass, University of Pennsylvania - in Philadelphia (is considered to be one of the top men in X-ray interpretations) **He said that there is much over-interpretation of X-rays by medical men who may make a diagnosis of pneumoconiosis upon knowledge of patients exposure to dust, although such a condition may not exist.**
Note: See attached chart for example of such mistaken diagnosis from X-ray charts.

4. A study of workers exposed to quartz dust in Sweden revealed that the assumption, that removal from dusty enviornment prevents progression of first-stage silicosis, is incorrect. Suspension from work with a high **silicosis risk should take place before pulmonary lesions become roentgenologically visible.**

5. The relation between asbestos and lung cancer has not been firmly established. Lung cancer related to industry require much study.

6. Asbestosis has occurred in people outside of mines and plants ( ) Therefore Air Pollution Control is important.

7. **Chronic pulmonary disease (nontuberculous, nonmalignant) is highest in dusty trades. People with allergy (asthma and emphysema) should not take dusty jobs.**

8. Nonoccupational Asbestosis:

Pleural calcification has sometimes been observed in patients exposed to such dusts as asbestos, talc, and mica. Unusual cases of asbestosis in which calcification was the main finding have been reported from Germany.

About 100 cases of pleural calcification were found in patients with no history of pleural disease and no occupational exposure to dust. They were found among inhabitants around 2 asbestos mines, Naljasalmi and Paakkila (Union of South Africa?) **the largest producers of anthophyllitic asbestos in the world. This belongs to the amphibole asbestos group and differs from the commoner serpentine type.**

It is possible that even very small amounts of asbestos will cause calcification.

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9. **The oxidative (chemically active) properties of quartz in the development of silicosis are probably more important than previously considered.**

All types of asbestos (chrysotile, crosydolite, amosite) mined or processed in South Africa can produce asbestosis. Asbestosis has been found in people not subjected to industrial exposures, who were born in the area of the mines, or those who transported it and even 2 nurses who were never near the mines.

Union of South Africa will send a team to the U.S. to learn of asbestos problems here.

10. Iron Coated Carbon Particles in the Human Lung:

In pathological studies of the lung many pseudoasbestos bodies have been found. This is true of coal miners (anthracite) from Pennsylvania and city dwellers in New York when coal was the major fuel used.

Iron deposits around this carbon or other pseudoasbestos bodies just as it does around asbestos in the lungs. This could result in a wrong diagnosis during pathological study of lung tissue. The asbestos body, however, is transparent and the carbon is black.

This kind of pseudoasbestos body does not show up on X-ray picture.

11. One study concluded that it could not be established that there is no silica in lungs of coal miners because all coal has silica associated with it.

Note: There was a great deal of interest in Asbestosis from the floor during most discussion periods.

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