

The data show, that asbestosis of the lung goes in a number of cases hand in hand with pulmonary cancer. This occurrence could be a coincidence (Gloyne, Wood). But in these 6 cases that were observed in detail, there were so many characteristics that were repeated, that the cancer in the asbestosis lung seems to be of a causal relation.

First of all, the small number of the case should be explained. The number of the workers that are at risk in the asbestos plants is by far smaller than the overall number of employees in the factories. For example, the number people that might be concerned in Germany is estimated only to be a few thousand. Only a fraction of those really work in the asbestos dust. Furthermore, many of the employees are women, and they are often only for short periods of time, as are the men. According to English, American, and German authors, it takes several years for noticeable symptoms or objective signs to appear that show the inhaled dust. Thus, we can not operate with large numbers, where our problem is concerned.

Furthermore, the attention about the occupation-related asbestosis has not been been attracted for long. The great majority of the papers of the medical field in England dates back to the years 1927 - 29 (cf. lit.) In Germany the asbestosis of the lungs has only been discussed in detail since 1931 / 32 - with the exceptions of the two forerunners Marchand (1906) and Fahr(1914). The same is true for the United States. Our chart shows very clearly that the studies which are especially dedicated to our problem, were published within the last three years. Nothing is more natural than having the detailed study of a disease only when the disease itself is known in its main symptoms.

If we can only expect small numbers, we can only use the dead patients for the deliberation of the occupation-related cancer of the asbestos workers. In Germany 12 dissections are known, including my own, two of those had cancer, ca. 17%. In Hannover 3 cases were dissected, two of which were cancerous, another, 4. case, with unfavourable prognosis, is under medical care, and is, probably, without complications of cancer, that means then ca. 50% carcinoma. The number of the actually dissected cases in Germany is probably not much larger, due to the scant publications. In England there is a survey of 100 cases, which were observed by Wood. 30% of these are combined with tuberculosis, 17% not

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