From January 1994 the *British Journal of Industrial Medicine* will be redesigned to appear in A4 size with a new title:

**Occupational and Environmental Medicine**

The new editor will be Dr Anne Cockcroft, consultant and senior lecturer in occupational medicine, Royal Free Hospital and School of Medicine. She will continue the sound tradition developed by Dr Tony Waldron of publishing good scientific papers on industrial medicine, and in the January issue will give her views on the directions in which the journal might evolve in the field of occupational and environmental medicine.

New papers and correspondence about papers previously submitted should be sent to:

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As part of the 50th birthday celebration, we are arranging to reprint 12 papers, the Editor’s Choice, which have appeared in previous issues of the Journal. They have been chosen partly to illustrate the range and scope of the Journal over the years and partly because they are or were important in their day. More significantly, they have been chosen because they exemplify some of the best in scientific writing and can all be read with great pleasure and all who wish to communicate their observations, their ideas, or their enthusiasms would do well to study them and learn from them.

We will publish one paper each month through the year and they will appear in the order in which they were originally published.

Editor’s Choice

Dust exposure and mortality in chrysotile mining, 1910–75
by J C McDonald, F D K Liddell, G W Gibbs, G E Eyssen, and A D McDonald

(British Journal of Industrial Medicine 1980;37:11-24)

Corbett McDonald has had a distinguished and varied career at the Public Health Laboratory Service, at McGill University and at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and now—in so called retirement—at the National Heart and Lung Institute. His outstanding contribution to the field of occupational epidemiology has been in the field of asbestos related diseases. The present paper describes almost the end result of a study begun in 1966 and carried on for 12 years on a cohort of 11 379 workers exposed to chrysotile in the asbestos mines and mills of Quebec. This work elegantly demonstrates that “Essentially linear relationships [exist] between indices of exposure, based on dust concentration (mpcf) multiplied by length of service, and lung cancer, pneumoconiosis, and total number of deaths”. Furthermore, McDonald and his colleagues go on to say that they “are now able to assess, with reasonable confidence, the mortality risk associated with work at different levels of dust concentrations”. They also claimed that it would be possible, “for social decisions to be made as to what level, if any, is ‘acceptable’.”

McDonald’s work over the years showed conclusively that the development of asbestos related diseases was a function of the degree and duration of exposure and laid low the fallacy of the notion that a single fibre could cause cancer. One might have expected his observations would have been welcomed, implying as they did that there were conditions under which asbestos could be worked without harm to health. But this was not to be so. He and his colleagues were subjected to a campaign of vituperation that was designed to achieve political rather than scientific ends. So far as I know he has never fully given an account of this episode and he may find it too painful to do so, although it would certainly be enlightening and instructive.
Vancouver style

All manuscripts submitted to *Occup Environ Med* should conform to the uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals (known as the Vancouver style.)

*Occup Environ Med*, together with many other international biomedical journals, has agreed to accept articles prepared in accordance with the Vancouver style. The style (described in full in the *BMJ*, 24 February 1979, p 532) is intended to standardise requirements for authors.

References should be numbered consecutively in the order in which they are first mentioned in the text by Arabic numerals above the line on each occasion the reference is cited (Manson\(^1\) confirmed other reports\(^{2-5}\). In future references to papers submitted to *Occup Environ Med* should include: the names of all authors if there are seven or less or, if there are more, the first six followed by *et al*; the title of journal articles or book chapters; the titles of journals abbreviated according to the style of *Index Medicus*; and the first and final page numbers of the article or chapter. Titles not in *Index Medicus* should be given in full.

Examples of common forms of references are:

Correspondence and editorials

Occupational and Environmental Medicine welcomes correspondence relating to any of the material appearing in the journal. Results from preliminary or small scale studies may also be published in the correspondence column if this seems appropriate. Letters should be not more than 500 words in length and contain a minimum of references. Tables and figures should be kept to an absolute minimum. Letters are accepted on the understanding that they may be subject to editorial revision and shortening.

The journal also publishes editorials which are normally specially commissioned. The Editor welcomes suggestions regarding suitable topics; those wishing to submit an editorial, however, should do so only after discussion with the Editor.
39 Komarova LT. Hygienic evaluation of the production of carbon black by the furnace method. Gig Tr Prof Zabol 1973;17:32-6. (In Russian.)


41 Troitskaya NA, Velichkovskii BT, Bikmullina SK, Sazhina TG, Corodnova NV, Andreyeva TD. Substantiation of the maximum permissible concentration of industrial carbon black in the air of production areas. Gigiena Truda i Professional'nye Zabolevaniya 1975;17:32-6. (In Russian.)


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**Destruction of manuscripts**

From 1 July 1985 articles submitted for publication will not be returned. Authors whose papers are rejected will be advised of the decision and the manuscripts will be kept under security for three months to deal with any inquiries and then destroyed.
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