

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

Mesothelioma of pleura and peritoneum following exposure to asbestos in the London area

by Muriel L Newhouse and Hilda Thompson

(*British Journal of Industrial Medicine* 1965;22:262-9)

Molly Newhouse holds a special place in the affections of practitioners of occupational medicine and many now highly placed were students of hers at the TUC Centenary Institute of Occupational Health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Her principal research interests were in skin disease and in diseases related to exposure to asbestos. The present paper describes a study investigating the aetiology of mesothelioma in a group of 83 patients, 42 men and 41 women. Among the men occupational exposure to asbestos was common, involving more than half the group. Of the women, there were 10 with occupational exposure but seven with domestic exposure. "The most usual history was of the wife who washed her husband's . . . work clothes. In one instance . . . the

husband came home 'white with asbestos' every day for three or four years and his wife brushed him down." There were also two men who, when boys of 8 or 9, had lived in the house with a sister who had worked in an asbestos factory.

Of even more interest in this study were cases of neighbourhood exposure. There were 11 patients who have lived within half a mile of an asbestos factory, a number significantly greater than among a control group of patients without mesothelioma. This suggested that neighbourhood exposure was the important source in these cases. The authors seemed to be reluctant to stress these findings, however, contenting themselves merely to say that more evidence was required. There are a good many others who, faced with the same findings, would have been considerably less reticent.

We acknowledge the contribution from clerks in municipality offices who made this study possible and from Marinella Nonnato, from our staff, who took care of the follow up procedures.

Requests for reprints to: Dr Corrado Magnani, Servizio Universitario di Epidemiologia dei Tumori, USL Torino 8, Via Santena 7, 10126 Torino, Italy.

- 1 Wagner JC, Sleggs CA, Marchand P. Diffuse pleural mesothelioma and asbestos exposure in the north western Cape Province. *Br J Ind Med* 1960;17:260-71.
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- 10 McMichael AJ. Standardized mortality ratios and the "Healthy worker effect": scratching beneath the surface *J Occup Med* 1976;18:165-8.
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- 14 Magnani C, Borgo G, Betta GP, et al. Mesothelioma and non-occupational environmental exposure to asbestos. *Lancet* 1991;338:949.

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Vancouver style

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

The *Br J Ind 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 *Br J Ind Med*, 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 (Manson¹ confirmed other reports²⁻⁵ . . .). In future references to papers submitted to the *Br J Ind Med* should include: the

names of all authors if there are six or less or, if there are more, the first three 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.

Examples of common forms of references are:

- 1 International Steering Committee of Medical Editors, Uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals. *Br J Ind Med* 1979;1:532-5.
- 2 Soter NA, Wasserman SI, Austen KF. Cold urticaria: release into the circulation of histamine and eosinophil chemotactic factor of anaphylaxis during cold challenge. *N Engl J Med* 1976;294:687-90.
- 3 Weinstein L, Swartz MN. Pathogenic properties of invading micro-organisms. In: Soderman WA Jr, Soderman WA, eds. *Pathologic physiology, mechanisms of disease*. Philadelphia: W B Saunders, 1974:457-72.

Requests for reprints to: Dr Carl R Rosenberg, New York University Medical Center, 341 East 25th Street, Room 206, New York, NY 10010, USA. Telephone 212-263-6500.

- 1 Rosenberg CR, Mulvihill MN, Fischbein A, Blum S. An analysis of the validity of self reported occupational histories using a cohort of workers exposed to PCBs. *Br J Ind Med* 1987;44:702-10.
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- 21 Liu K, Stamler J, Dyer A, et al. Statistical methods to assess and minimize the role of intra-individual variability in obscuring the relationship between dietary lipids and serum cholesterol. *J Chron Dis* 1978;31:399-418.
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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.

- 15 Leigh JP, Sheetz RM. Prevalence of back-pain among fulltime United States workers. *Br J Ind Med* 1989;46:651-7.
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- 24 Riihimaki H. Low back pain, its original risk indicators. *Scand J Work Environ Health* 1991;17:81-90.
- 25 Smith DB. Human factors and aging: an overview of research needs and application opportunities. *Hum factors* 1990; 32:509-26.

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Correspondence and editorials

The *British Journal of Industrial 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 now 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.