

later. Whereas it would be difficult to explain gross differences in the annual decline of FEV<sub>1</sub> of 30 ml/year and 15 ml/year respectively for cotton workers and controls as being due to bias, it does not give a definite answer to the question, What is the extent of permanent loss of lung function caused by long term exposures to dust?

Thus we emphasise the need for longitudinal studies; in particular, to find out whether or not the low levels of dust exposure now being achieved in many cotton mills in developed countries cause any permanent loss of lung function.

We think that it was right to emphasise the adverse effects of cotton dust, particularly as they are likely to occur in textile factories without effective dust control.

## References

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## Correction

### Relation between lung function, exercise capacity, and exposure to asbestos cement (August 1987, p 545)

We regret that owing to a printing error table 5 appeared twice. Table 4 reads as follows:

Table 4 Relation between smoking, asbestos exposure, and lung function measured at rest in the study group. Multiple regression analysis was used and the standardised regression coefficients (B) are presented. This relates the standard deviation unit change in the dependent variable to one standard deviation unit change in an independent variable

		TLC	FRC	RV	Cst <sub>L</sub>	R <sub>L</sub>	Pel <sub>LITLC</sub>
Smoking:	B	0.254	0.299	0.282	0.065	0.019	-0.263
(n = 120)	p	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	NS	NS	<0.01
Exposure:	B	-0.285	-0.211	-0.218	-0.217	0.108	0.241
(n = 120)	p	<0.001	<0.01	<0.01	<0.05	NS	<0.01

## Notices

### Preliminary Certificate in Asbestos

The National Occupational Hygiene Service Ltd in conjunction with Central Manchester College is pleased to announce the dates for further courses leading to the BERBOH preliminary certificate examination in asbestos sampling and analysis. Limited experience, five day course, 12-16 September and 7-11 November 1988; extensive experience, two day courses, 19-20 September and 14-15 November 1988. For further details phone Action Line between 1300 and 1600 daily, 061 831 7791 ext 334.

### ESF Research Fellowships in Toxicology (PGT)

Research fellowships (2-12 months) and short term visiting fellowships (up to one month) are offered to scientists of any nationality working in European (or Israeli) laboratories to go to laboratories in other European countries. Deadline for submitting applications for research fellowships is 15 September 1988 to start from 1 January 1989. Short term visiting fellowships may be applied for at any time. For further information contact ESF Research Fellowships in Toxicology (PGT), Mrs Caroline Schneider, European Science Foundation, 1 quai Lezay-Marnesia, F-67000 Strasbourg, France.

### 2nd Meeting of the International Neurotoxicology Association, Sitges, Barcelona, 22-26 May 1989

The programme will include symposia, workshop, review lectures, and poster sessions for contributed papers. For further information contact: Dr E Rodriguez Farre, Secretariat II INA meeting, Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, CSIC, Jorge Girona Salgada, 18-26, Barcelona, E-08034 Spain.