

CHILDHOOD CANCER AND NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS

Marie Beral, Eve Roman & Martin Gardner

Ever since a television programme in 1983 on the people of Windscale (Sellafield) revealed an unusually high incidence of cancer in children researchers have been attempting to uncover the reason for the clusters. None of the studies to date has caused such a stir as that led by Martin Gardner in Sellafield, published by *BMJ* in 1990, which found a statistical link between fathers' exposure to radiation and the incidence of leukaemia among their children.

As a result of the Gardner report more studies were set up, many of which have also been published in *BMJ*, but none as yet has confirmed the findings. In fact, different

associations have been found near other plants and new theories that challenge any link at all between the clusters and radiation have been put forward.

Childhood Cancer and Nuclear Installations tells the story from the beginning to the present day, with a lively commentary by three of the major contributors to the debate, and reproduces the key papers, commentaries, and correspondence from the UK and abroad, along with extracts from reports produced by official bodies set up to monitor the problem. This book, which is dedicated to the late Martin Gardner, is a lasting document of the first ten years of the story.

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