

However, great care should be taken to exclude the tuberculous in selecting persons to receive aluminum therapy. (4) It is not believed that a scientifically controlled experiment in industry is feasible for the evaluation of aluminum for the prophylaxis of silicosis. This follows from the uncontrollable variables inherent in the industrial situation and other factors which have been discussed. For these reasons, it appears improbable that any research agency would consider it advisable to undertake such a project except under special conditions already discussed, and which may not be attainable. (5) The McIntyre Research Foundation, as presently organized, is not equipped to solve the aluminum prophylaxis problem in relation to silicosis. The steps considered necessary to accomplish this objective are outlined. (6) Research should be continued with laboratory animals with the object of finding a more adequate basis for application to man. Such study is now included in the program of the Saranac Laboratory of the Trudeau Foundation. -- Authors' Summary

- 866 Effects of Electricity on the Human Body. W.B. Kouwenhoven.
Ind. Med. 18, 269 (July, 1949).

The author discusses briefly the various effects of electricity on the body, including variations with the amount of current. The current values of interest are: (1) threshold of feeling, about 1 milliamperes; (2) let-go current, above which it is difficult to let go of a wire, about 9 milliamperes for men, 6 for women; (3) current producing ventricular fibrillation, 0.1 ampere; (4) current producing a block in the nervous system, one ampere or more; and (5) the counter shock current. The last three result in death if prolonged; otherwise artificial respiration may save the victim. These effects refer to alternating current of commercial frequency. Direct current is much less harmful. The only effect of high-frequency currents is heating.

- 867 Asbestosis and Cancer of the Lung. Editorial.
J.A.M.A. 140, 1219-1220 (Aug. 13, 1949).

Records of English, American and German physicians and The Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories in England for 1947 show that the occurrence of cancer of the lung is related to pulmonary asbestosis. This relation is supported by the following observations: (1) The incidence rate of cancer of the lungs in asbestosis patients is 10 to 15 times as high as among the general population. (2) The male-female ratio is more nearly equal than it is for the general population, which indicates that an environmental and evidently occupational carcinogen tended to equalize the incidence rate of cancer of the lungs for both sexes. Recent experimental observations support this interpretation of clinical evidence.

- 868 Changes in the Lungs Produced by Natural Graphite. H.E. Harding and G.B. Oliver. Brit. J. Ind. Med. 6, 91-99 (April, 1949).

A brief description is given of the industrial uses of natural graphite, which is a crystalline carbon mixed with up to 10% of free silica and with other minerals. The greatest dust risk occurs in the grinding of natural graphite, for which evidence is presented to show that this can lead to