

PART III : 7TH WALTER HUBERT LECTURE
POTT AND THE PROSPECTS FOR PREVENTION
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Scotland sweeps seldom acquired the disease interest in washing, as is evidenced by the

unless they had worked in a large English history of a 25-year old sweep who was

town (Syme, 1835), and it seemed as reasonable to attribute the disease to some feature treated for scrotal cancer in St Bartholomew's Hosnital in 1848 and whose notes I have been

Finally, in 1915, the Japanese workers due to x-rays, both of which occurred against

Yamagiwa and Ichikawa (1918) produced a background of severely damaged tissue.

cancer on a rabbit's ear by painting it with provided irresistible evidence of cause and

tar and 18 years later Cook *et al.* (1933) effect, but the suggestion that other cancers

benzo(a)pyrene.

exposure to specific agents was strongly

TABLE II
Occupational Hazards Discovered Since 1915

Occupation	Agent	Site
(Makers of coal gas)	Polycyclic hydrocarbons	Bronchus
Makers of mustard gas Chemical workers	Mustard gas 4-amino-diphenyl	Bronchus, larynx nasal sinuses Bladder
Manufacturers of PVC	Vinyl chloride	Liver (angiosarcoma)
(Vineyard workers) (Cobalt smelters) (Rhodesian gold miners)		

received a pension for the effects of mustard gas poisoning in the First World War had to decide whether it includes any of the more common tumours.

and that at least 6 of the growths appeared to have arisen from sidero-silicotic masses. seemed very unlikely at first as the occupation of the patients included housewife.

Necropsy data of this type are, however, peculiarly difficult to interpret because men whose widows may get compensation if their domestic servant, cattle herder, farmer, water bailiff, insurance agent and accountant. Detailed enquiry, however, revealed that all

husbands had silicosis are more likely to have lived near an open asbestos mine in

other men for whom this possibility does not exist. miners and the relationship was rapidly

proved (Wagner, Sleggs and Marchand, 1960; Gilson, 1966).
20-year period confirmed the existence of a Seven hazards—lung cancer from chrome

carbonvl process. while it has arisen in 1951) and the men had to be followed up 6
nickel refineries in Canada and Norway years before any worthwhile information

crude nickel ore containing substantial amounts of copper. Indeed, the role of the epidemiologists has
been largely limited to this somewhat

The risk of nasal cancer from dust arising in the manufacture of hardwood furniture was suspected by two ear, nose and throat surgeons in the Oxford region and the mode of its discovery provides a nice example of the superiority of two minds over one.

mundane task of proving what other more imaginative investigators have suspected.

Often, admittedly, on rather tenuous grounds. Only 4 hazards can be said to have been discovered directly by epidemiological methods. One was discovered by Henry.

The train of events was started when Ronald Macbeth noticed that a large proportion of his patients with ethmoid sinus cancer. a

Kennaway and Kennaway in 1931. by

examination of the death certificates of nearly 6000 men who had died of bladder

an indication of the way in which routine during the Production of "Town" Gas by Coal

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