

**INDUSTRIAL MEDICINE, BEING THE PAPERS  
AND DISCUSSIONS ON "THE PRACTICE OF  
MEDICINE AND THE INDUSTRIES" PRESENTED  
AT THE XXXIXTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE  
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF MEDICINE, HELD  
AT ATLANTIC CITY, JUNE 20, 1914**

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# **VARIOUS**

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#### INTRODUCTION.

Following the custom of the last two or three years the American Academy of Medicine collates in this volume the papers and discussions of the principal topic of discussion at its last annual meeting. Notwithstanding these articles have appeared in the *Bulletin of the American Academy of Medicine*, experience has shown that there is demand for gathering the papers into a single volume for convenience of reference.

The opportunity offered by this publishing is embraced to thank all those who contributed to make the discussion so valuable. That it is but the partial presentation of the subject itself does not decrease its value because of the excellence of the papers upon individual topics.

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I.  
THE CANCER DEATH RATE IN SELECTED OCCU-  
PATIONS.

By FREDRICK L. HOFFMAN, LL.D., Statistician, Prudential Insurance Company,  
Newark, N. J.

A full discussion of the occupational aspects of the cancer problem is out of the question on account of the paucity of data and the doubtful value of a considerable amount of available statistical information. Most of the cancer statistics by occupation fail to differentiate the organs and parts of the body affected, so that the initial seat of the disease cannot be correlated to the known factors or conditions producing irritability, or traumatism, resulting in cancerous growth. Authorities on the subject of workmen's compensation for industrial diseases are very guarded in their references to the interrelation of accidental injuries to cancerous growth, excepting such forms of malignant disease as will subsequently be discussed with the required brevity, but in sufficient detail to emphasize the points of most practical importance. From a statistical point of view the occupational aspects of the cancer problem are of exceptional interest and deserving of much more technical consideration than has been given to this phase of the cancer problem in the past. The evidence is apparently entirely conclusive that specific injuries to different parts of the body, whether internal or external, especially injuries resulting in a long-continued condition of slight irritability, may develop into cancerous growth of practically every known variety and degree of malignancy. That the relative mortality from cancer varies considerably according to occupation, has been established beyond a question of reasonable doubt by the decennial occupation mortality investigations of the Registrar-General of England and Wales. The classical illustrations of chimney-sweeps' cancer may be referred to as an extreme instance of an occupation peculiarly liable to malignant disease, so much so that by far the greatest excess of mortality in this occupation, according to the last report of the Registrar-General, "is at