

the paper on talc and carcinoma. Mount Sinai found the talc, but also found something the British missed. It is difficult to imagine how asbestos fibers could find their way into the female reproductive system, if they weren't introduced there along with talcum powder . . . unless, he stated: "One could speculate they arrived via the bloodstream, after having been absorbed through the walls of the digestive tract.

(*Nature Magazine*, July 30, 1971) H. Cunningham and R. Pontrefact, reported finding asbestos fibers in the tap water of Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa. Ranging from 2.0 and 4.4 million fibers per liter in filtered water systems, unfiltered water from a lake in the asbestos mining region of Quebec showed an asbestos content of 172.7 million fibers per liter. Water from Ottawa River showed 9.5 million fibers per liter. Even melted snow which feeds lakes, rivers and streams was discovered to have 33.5 million asbestos fibers per liter. Asbestos fibers have been found in U.S. and Canadian beers (some breweries use asbestos filtering pads), in soft drinks, sherry, port and vermouth. The magnitude of the problem begins to be apparent.

The asbestos industry maintains that the case against asbestos or talc in our food and drinking water has not been proven. But as far as the tobacco industry is concerned, the case against cigarette

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