

$$2. \text{ Duration (days)} = \frac{\text{No. of days' absence in year}}{\text{Population (person years)}}$$

It is also often useful to use other rates, but these are of less importance and should not replace 1 and 2 above. These may include:

$$3. \text{ Point prevalence} = \frac{\text{No. of persons absent on day \%}}{\text{Population employed on that day}}$$

$$4. \text{ Frequency (persons)} = \frac{\text{No. of persons having one or more spells in year \%}}{\text{Population (person years)}}$$

$$5. \text{ Lost time} = \frac{\text{No. of working days or hours lost in a period \%}}{\text{Potential working days or hours in the same time}}$$

7. Although for routine purposes rates are usually calculated for the main groups in occupation, sex, and age, there may be advantage in studying other rates, e.g., injuries, operations, respiratory, digestive, or cases receiving compensation, etc.

#### 8. Proposal for action

The sub-committee recommends that a voluntary system of recording of sickness absence on the lines indicated by the sub-committee should be tried out in a few countries to see whether it is possible to establish some degree of international comparison.

Occupational physicians who would be prepared

to help are invited to submit annual rates of absence for their factories to a national co-ordinator. He will keep the chairman of the sub-committee informed of the number of organizations from which he is receiving such information. It may then be possible to provide some international comparison of absence for the 18th International Congress on Occupational Health.

Meeting in San Paulo, Brazil, 14 September 1972

Members of the Sub-committee on Absenteeism:

Dr. Oswaldo Paulino	— Chairman
	(Brazil)
Dr. Arthur Ernesto Moniz	— Secretary
	(Portugal)
Dr. Peter J. Taylor	— Member (UK)
Dr. Diogo Pupo Nogueira	— Member (Brazil)
Dr. Pedro Sangro	— Member (Spain)
Dr. José H. Molteni	— Member
	(Argentina)

#### References

- London Transport Executive (1956). *Health in Industry. A Contribution to the Study of Sickness Absence. Experience in London Transport*. Butterworth, London.
- World Health Organization (1967). *Manual of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries, and Causes of Death*. 8th Revision, 1965. W.H.O., Geneva.

#### CORRECTION

'Histochemical study of asbestos fibre coating in experimental carrageenin granulomas' by M. Governa and C. Rosanda Vadalà, vol. 30, pp. 248-252.

The footnote to the Table on p. 250 should read:  
 + positive reaction; - negative reaction; ± some asbestos fibres stained; M = metachromasia; nd = not done; \* positive reaction with 0.1, 0.2, and 0.5 mol/l but negative reaction with 0.6, 0.8, and 1.0 mol/l MgCl<sub>2</sub>.

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 This study was supported by a grant from the Quebec Asbestos Mining Association.