

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION  
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

SEMINAR ON AIR POLLUTION

EM/SEM.AIR.POL./5

20 April 1969

Teheran, 21 - 29 April 1969

ENGLISH ONLY

EFFECTS OF POLLUTANTS ON MAN'S HEALTH

(DRAMATIC EPISODES)

O U T L I N E

by

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The effects of air pollution on man are most clearly seen when high concentrations such as those achieved during prolonged temperature inversions over fuel burning towns, act on sick people. The ease with which the association between pollution and increase in mortality and morbidity may be demonstrated will depend on the concentration of pollution and the proportion of the population who may be considered susceptible. These effects may be termed "acute" and "sub-acute". Chronic exposure to lesser degrees of pollution has other effects which merit separate consideration.

In order to try to understand the mechanism by which air pollution produces its more dramatic effects, it is essential to study the detailed constitution of pollution, the normal physiological processes involved in respiration and the pathological states which render some people especially vulnerable to high degrees of pollution. Thereafter epidemiological studies of general populations or of specially selected people may be used in an effort to identify especially harmful substances and these studies are supplemented by experimental work in laboratories.

Current work on these topics will be discussed.

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