The high rate of mortality from pulmonary disease among miners has been recognized for centuries. The woodcut of the mines in the Joachimsthal area is taken from Agricola’s *De Re Metallica*, 1556, translated by Herbert Clark Hoover and Lou Henry Hoover (Mining Magazine, London, 1912). F. H. Härting and W. Hesse in 1879 reported that a high proportion of the mortality in Schneeberg was attributable to pulmonary cancer (Vrtjschr. gerichtl. Med., 80: 102, 206, 1879).