

STATISTICAL STUDIES IN THE AETIOLOGY OF MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS

A Manual of Cancer Epidemiology

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206 Tables, 141 Diagrams.

Vol. II *Basic Tables, Denmark 1943-57*
319 pages.

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The introduction points to the complex nature of cancer aetiology necessitating the evaluation of all evidence on a statistical basis. Logically, although not explicitly stated, this book therefore amounts to a manual of cancer epidemiology, covering the development from Stern's studies on data from Verona, 1760-1839, and Melzer's hospital data from Ljubliana, 1787-1849, up to last year's analyses of leukaemia clusters in the United States.

After a general historical survey, Vol. I reviews statistical studies of cancer by site in the internationally agreed sequence, quoting essential figures and tables for most relevant studies based on delimited populations-at-risk from the last 200 years.

For each site its special conditions are considered with a view to the reliability of statistics from various periods, and exhaustive reviews are given of the relation of cancer to heredity, tobacco consumption of all kinds, alcohol, betel-chewing, syphilis, blood-groups, soil, bilharziasis, marital state, childbirth, early sex life, Jewish rite, promiscuity, socioeconomic status, ionizing radiation, etc. Occupational factors are surveyed to less detail with references to essential reviews.

Statistical data are quoted and commented without the use of formulas, but from the viewpoint of a pathologist investigator exploiting personal experience from The Danish Cancer Registry, from which the data are given in Vol. II to an unprecedented detail making them accessible to investigators everywhere. The volume ends with tables adjusted for a U. S. standard population. A third volume presenting Danish data for 1958-62 correspondingly is promised within one year.

These volumes will prove indispensable to all workers in cancer epidemiology, and promise to be extremely useful to all lecturers in surgery, clinical medicine, and pathology, as a handy source of information on the occurrence of neoplastic diseases under many conditions of life.

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This book records the proceedings of a Symposium held at the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology from March 30 to April 3, 1964. The material appeared as a special supplement to the journal *Laboratory Investigation*, June, 1965.

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