

### 3 *Unusual changes of the sea and the lives*

【What happened to the lives in the sea since Chisso had discharged poisonous water into the sea?】

Since 1932 Chisso had begun to produce acetaldehyde, raw material of plastic. On the process of producing it, strong poisonous methyl mercury was made incidentally, flew into the sea and polluted fishes and shellfishes.

The more Chisso produced, the more the sea was polluted.

Since the former of ninety fifties many fishes were seen dead on the surface of the sea, shell fishes died and seaweeds stopped growing. Especially the condition of Minamata Bay. Chisso discharged directly was the worst. Then a lot of sludge with poisonous mercury had begun to accumulate on the bottom of the sea.

And near the shore of Shiranui Sea, a lot of unusual incident happened. Such as cats went mad to death and birds fell down to the ground from the sky. And the chickens and pigs which had been eating the food with fishes from the sea went mad to death, too.

You mean that unusual incidents had happened first to the small lives before people got disease?

