January 7, 1943

To: Mr. Bowditch
From: Dr. Morris
Subject: Bethlehem Steel Company, Quincy
Person interviewed: Dr. Manley
Date of visit: December 15, 1942

This visit was made in connection with Dr. Merewether's tour. Dr. Manley and Merewether discussed many phases of industrial medicine and Dr. Merewether was especially pleased to learn of the efficient manner in which Dr. Manley handled flash burns. Dr. Manley has found that the instillation of a few drops of a 4 1/2% solution of cocaine alkaloid in castor oil gives effective relief to those with such burns.

Dr. Manley and Merewether discussed the asbestosis problem and both agreed that a definite hazard exists, especially in the removal of old asbestos from ships which are being repaired. Dr. Merewether remarked that he was thankful that the present preparation sold as asbestos contains about 85% of a harmless magnesium silicate. He feels that it is this high concentration of a non-toxic substance that prevents us from seeing more pulmonary pathology from asbestos.

Both Dr. Manley and Merewether have found that the use of fiberglass causes a dermatitis which easily clears up with appropriate treatment. Slight irritation of the throat also may occur from the glass particles becoming lodged in the throat. Dr. Merewether has found that the glass particles are too large to be inhaled into the alveoli and so is not greatly concerned with fiberglass as a pulmonary irritant. Injection of small fiberglass particles into animals has caused a hemorrhagic reaction and Dr. Merewether believes that some few workers may develop nose bleed from inhaled fibers.

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Supplementary: The x-rays of the asbestosis case, file #5197, have been removed from the files without Dr. Manley's permission. He has been unable to find them and so has not sent them to us.

Blasting is done in a metal shed approximately 12' x 10' x 8'. The sand is shovelled from the floor to an open barrel. It is then sucked into the spray gun by the pressure of the air. A supplied air type respirator is allegedly worn by the worker during the actual blasting operation but is probably not worn during the time of shovelling. It is probably removed from over the face as soon as the actual blasting is over and long before any small particles would have time to settle. I could find no approval number on the mask.

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