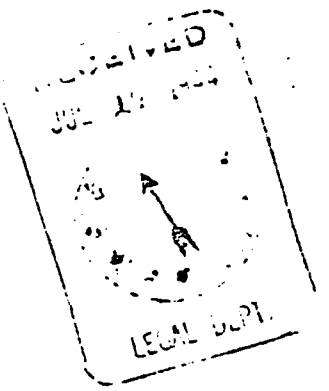
BID

THE SARANAC LABORATORY
FOR THE STUDY OF TUBERCULOSIS
OF THE EDWARD L. TRUDEAU FOUNDATION
SARANAC LAKE, N.Y.



July 15, 1944

Mr. Vandiver Brown
Johns-Manville Corporation
22 East 40th Street
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Brown:

I am happy to inform you that we have just returned from a most interesting trip to Asbestos, Quebec. I took with me our roentgenologist, Dr. Robert, also Dr. Vestal of the North Carolina State Industrial Commission as he has had a lot of experience in this field and has seen a great deal of real asbestosis. In company with Dr. Stevenson we reviewed and read between two and three hundred of the X-ray films in his files. We found only two cases out of the lot which could be diagnosed as questionable first degree asbestosis. I was greatly relieved to discover that the two experts did corroborate me on previous observations that asbestosis was a rarity in the Asbestos-Thetford area.

We are still at a loss to explain the situation because of the conditions in the textile mill which certainly would be capable of causing characteristic disease in exposed workmen. The only difference that we can see between this mill and that in similar plants in the U.S. is the absence of African fibre. However, I doubt whether this is the significant factor.

Mr. Fehnel, of the Metropolitan, writes me that he is planning to go to Asbestos for another survey in August. He will collect air-borne samples of dust; one half of each will be sent to this laboratory and he will retain the other one half for analysis. We hope that by making such a study in Quebec and comparing it with similar samples at Manville that we may arrive at some conclusion.

While we were up there it seemed highly desirable if I were to report our experimentation with asbestosis I should make mention of the clinical and X-ray experience on the North American Continent. In order to do this in an authoritative manner I should have the collaboration of the clinicians and roentgenologists. I proposed to Drs. Vestal and Robert that they join me in the venture. They would be very glad to do so and I think we might produce something that would be definitely worth while. It was agreed that it might be desirable to have our Dr. Robert review all the films that have been taken at Thetford. Dr. Stevenson felt that this could be done and would be very glad to have them sent down to us. This would give us a basis for statistical analysis and information on the incidence of various X-ray abnormalities.

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Before attempting the publication, of course, we must have the further information which Mr. Fehnel's counts may supply and we must examine more films from the American textile plants. I trust that this proposal may meet with your approval.

Very truly yours,

Leroy U. Gardner, M. D.
Director

LUG:RH

cc to Mr. H. J. Sherry

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C O P Y

BD

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