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

LEROY U. GARDNER, M.D.
DIRECTOR

March 18, 1947

Mr. Vandiver Brown, Secretary
Johns-Manville Corporation
22 East 40th Street
New York 16, N. Y.

NOTED
V.B.

Dear Mr. Brown:

Thank you for your letter of March 12. I am very glad to comply with your suggestion and am doing so by sending to Dr. Lynch copies of your letter and enclosure, and of this reply.

The distinction which Dr. Gardner used to discuss with me was mainly that between fibrous and particulate asbestos dust, whereas Dr. King and his colleagues refer to long and short fibres. Just what they mean by these designations is not clear from the abstract and I find that we do not have the original paper. King was here last summer for an extended stay and I am sure that this was one of the many subjects on which he and Dr. Gardner exchanged notes, though the paper was probably submitted for publication before King left England. I am taking steps to secure a copy of the paper.

Dr. Gardner, in the notes which have been transcribed and sent to Dr. Lynch, makes the following points:

1. The English experience with regard to tuberculosis among workers exposed to asbestos dusts has not been duplicated in our American plants.

2. Fibres under 3 μ are practically inert, those between 20 and 50 μ caused typical fibrosis, while material crushed to destroy the fibrous structure is wholly inert.

3. To cause damage, the fibres must be long enough so that they cannot be completely surrounded by phagocytic cells.

4. 81.8% of mice inhaling long fibre asbestos develop lung cancer, a figure sixteen times that of the average for other dusts. 13.6% of mice inhaling short fibre asbestos develop lung cancer, a figure seven times the average for other dusts. These results are suggestive, rather than conclusive.

The above quotations from Dr. Gardner's notes are given merely for the purposes of this correspondence and should not be regarded as anything more. To what extent they may be modified, in the light of other findings, in the final report remains to be seen.

Sincerely yours,

Manfred Bowditch
Field Director

MB:AD