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October 30, 1936

Julian Mitchell, Esq.,
Mitchell and Horlbeck
Charleston, S. C.

Dear Mr. Mitchell:-

It was a great pleasure to hear from you this morning and I have read your letter with much interest. I knew something of this matter because it comes under the jurisdiction of Dr/ R. R. Sayers of the Public Health Service, who is in charge of the Office of Industrial Hygiene in the Service, which whom I have worked in close cooperation for over twenty years. I happened to meet him in Harrisburg the other day and he told me that the State of South Carolina had asked his assistance on making a survey of industial plants in that State.

I think this will be very much to your advantage. Dr. Sayers has had wide industrial experience and enjoys the highest favor and confidence of industrialists and employers all over the United States. Whether he will make X-ray examinations of employees, I do not know, but Iwill ask Dr. Sayers, when he goes to Charleston, to get in touch with you.

The Public HealthService Reports rigorously follow a standard form, that is, their reports are published without mention of the firms or localities surveyed so that the identities of plants studied are not revealed. Thinking you may be interested, I enclose a copy of the report that Dr. Sayers made on Anthro-silicosis in the anthracite regions of Pennsylvania. This study was made at the joint request of the mine operators' association and the labor organizations. You will remember that when our asbestos study was published in the Public Health Reports, we simply referred to Plants, A, B, C, D, therein following the standard procedure of the Public Health Service.

No individually records are ever divulged by the Government, You may recollect that the Picher Clinic in Oklahoma was run jointly by the Public Health Service, the mine operators, and the Metropolitan. We had in our files the physical examination records of more than 50,000 individuals. We were often solicited by interested parties to permit them to have access to our records and our reply was always the same,nbnely, that they were Government records and not available for any purpose whatsoever, with the single exception of the United States Marshall in the performance of his duty in trying to apprehend criminals. I am sure that the Federal Department would not make available individual records to the State Boar of Health.

As a rule, the Public Health Service studies are published but I believe that this is not an invariable custom, depending upon their number and their general interest.

Please give my very best regards to Mr. Jeffords and with best wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours
A.J.Lanza, M. D.
Assistant Medical Director

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