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

December 11, 1945

Mr. Sumner Simpson, President
Raybestos Manhatten Company
Bridgeport, Connecticut

Dear Mr. Simpson:

The first of the year Mr. Manfred Bowditch, formerly Director of the Division of Occupational Disease of the Massachusetts Department of Labor will join me as Director of our Field Division. His help will permit me to devote more time to my proper function of research and I hope then to be able to tackle my proposed monograph on asbestosis. I regret the delay as much as any one but in the meantime I have been learning more zbout the condition and have accumulated some fifteen more human autopsy specimens from Quebec. The inclusion of this material should enhance the value of the report

I am writing my friends in Industry about the following project to make ourselves more useful.

During the past twenty-five years our institution has been faced with a steadily increasing demand for information on industrial diseases of the lungs. We have carried on an extensive program of research based upon the evidence of X-ray films of the chest, autopsy studies of deceased workmen, studies of industrial environments and animal experiments. We have tried to constitute ourselves a clearing house for information on such conditions and have carried on a program of education for physicians and others who must be informed to deal with them.

To accomplish these purposes we have gradually assembled a staff of qualified specialists in various fields. Thirteen years ago the capacity of the Laboratory buildings was doubled by the addition of the John Black Wing; a gift of Mr. and Mrs. Frank B. Black of Mansfield, Ohio. Today we are again overcrowded and the existing staff has barely room to work. We are limited in the number and character of the new projects that can be undertaken and yet we are constantly being asked to do more.

The amount of investigation still needed in this field would seem unlimited but the number of institutions equipped to handle such problems is small indeed. Aside from the Laboratories of the Public Health Service in Bethesda and the Harvard School of Public Health, the biological aspects of industrial disease are receiving scant attention.

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If the Saranac Laboratory is to continue its usefulness its facilities must again be increased; an addition to the building is essential and several more key men must be added to the research staff. Income from new projects will be adequate for maintenance but we need $100,000 to build and equip the proposed addition. Being a tax exempt research institution we cannot make a profit from investigation and therefore, cannot build up reserves. In this dilemma I am turning to my friends in Industry to ask whether they will help me raise the necessary funds. Already I have received pledges from five industries amounting to $27,000 so that I have reason to feel optimistic. If Industry can help us to build a better workshop we will do our best to solve its health problems.

If this proposal seems reasonable to you I would deeply appreciate your bringing this matter to the attention of the officials of your company with a recommendation for a contribution to the building fund of the Saranac Laboratory. I hope that I may not be putting you on the spot by asking for early action before the tax laws change the first of the year. I finally realized that I would not be able to see you personally and am therefore, writing at this late date.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

Leroy U. Gardner, M. D.
Director

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(Signed) Leroy U. Gardner, M. D.
Director

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