Briageport, Conn.
November 10, 1936

Mr. G. M. Williams, President,
Russell Manufacturing Co.,
Middletown, Conn.

My dear Mr. Williams:

The writer and Mr. Vandiver Brown, of Johns-Manville, had a conference with Dr. Leroy Gardner, of Saranac, New York, and Dr. Lanza and Dr. McConnell, of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., with reference to the Asbestosis situation in the Asbestos industry.

As you no doubt know, Johns-Manville and ourselves have been doing considerable work, in conjunction with the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., in the way of eliminating Asbestos Dust in our factories, and we have made a very satisfactory job of it.

We have now reached the point where we can eliminate a large part of the Dust, but as yet have no definite information as to what Asbestosis will lead into. They claim it leads to Tuberculosis, but we do not find this to be the case. Still, we cannot go into court and state definitely and specifically that it will not do so. We do know that Asbestos Fibres can, and do, get into the lungs, and may set up a Fibrosis condition, which, for want of a better name, some doctors have called Asbestosis.

Dr. Gardner has a well equipped Laboratory, and a number of separate Dust Chambers in his Laboratory at Saranac, and he and his associates have been studying various types of Dust for a number of years, in connection with Tuberculosis, but practically nothing has been done with Asbestos.

In order to carry on a systematic Dust investigation, it takes from two to three years, and these investigations are generally paid for by industry, mostly working as a unit.

Dr. Gardner's Laboratory charge is $5,000.00 a year, and any study should be based on a three year period, in order to get results that will stand up and be accepted by the medical fraternity, and, I believe, by the courts.

I think the Compensation Laws in the various states will become more rigid in the next few years, and, no doubt, Asbestos, on account of the advertising it has had lately, will become one of the Compensation cases, and we should have all the information we can possibly get to submit to the Compensation Commissions of the various states when the question of Asbestosis comes up.

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Dr. Gardner now has a Dust Chamber open and could start work on experimenting with Asbestos at once, and has suggested to us that the Asbestos industry take over this Dust Chamber and employ him to carry on the experiments with guinea pigs and rabbits.

The idea of Mr. Brown and myself would be to have four or five (or even more if we could get them) Asbestos manufacturers take over this study by subscribing an equal amount per year, for three years, and then we could determine from time to time after the findings are made, whether we wish any publication or not. My own idea is that it would be a good thing to distribute the information among the medical fraternity, providing it is of the right type and would not injure our companies.

This would mean, if four of us went in to carry on this work, it would be $1,250.00 a year for each one of us for a period of three years.

If you are interested in this subject, I should like to have a meeting in New York, on Tuesday, November 17, at 12:30 o'clock, at The Biltmore, or if this is not satisfactory, can make it any place you care to have it.

I am asking the following to attend the meeting,

Mr. Vandiver Brown, Johns-Manville, Inc.
Mr. F. H. Schluter, Thermoid Rubber Co.
Mr. A. S. Blagden, Keasbey & Mattison Co.
Mr. H. D. Lamont, Asbestos Manufacturing Co.
Mr. G. M. Williams, Russell Manufacturing Co.
Mr. S. Simpson, Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc.

Is there any one else you would suggest?

Very truly yours,

SS-G.

President

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