



December 24, 1946

EXPERIMENTAL WORK - SARANAC LABORATORY
Grinding Dust Exposure on Laboratory Animals

Mr. E. Dunn, Treasurer
New York Office

Enclosed herewith is a report covering the first 10 months of our experimental work which Dr. Gardner was doing for us at Saranac Lake. You will note that in each of the groups of animals exposed to dust over an 8 to 10 month period, the findings as far as production of fibrosis in the lungs is concerned, are essentially negative. In other words the experiment thus far warrants a tentative conclusion that the dust exposure in our grinding operations while producing changes observed in the x-ray film is a relatively inert dust. This substantiates my original impression that the nodulations we have seen are not due to true silicosis but are similar to the changes observed in lungs of persons exposed to iron dust. It is of course too soon to draw any definite conclusions but the implications are very encouraging and very satisfying to me. After we have had a chance to observe the results over the next period of months I feel that we will be in a position to definitely state that we are not dealing with silicosis but a non-disabling siderosis.

You will also note Paragraph 4 which so far indicates that the animals which have been infected with tuberculosis and then dusted show no appreciable difference. In other words the spread of infection is apparently not accelerated by the inhalation of this dust during the 8 months' period study.

I feel that we should consider the money spent in this experimental work to be a very definite contribution to our knowledge of dust diseases and one that I think will have far reaching effects not only as far as Brake Shoe is concerned but through the industrial world in general. I think that you and Mr. Given and others concerned in making this experimental work possible deserve a great deal of credit for your foresight and cooperation in making this study possible. When the experimental work has been completed, I plan to write it up in detail and publish the story. This will not be, of course, for some months yet and nothing will be published without your approval. I will let you know as soon as we have any more results.

L. E. Hamlin, M.D.
Medical Director

LEH:np
Enclosure

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