

Bridgport, Conn.
November 18, 1936

Mr. F. H. Schluter, President,
Thermoic Rubber Co.,
Trenton, N. J.

My dear Mr. Schluter:

The writer and Mr. V. Oliver Brown, of Johns-Manville, had a conference with Dr. Leroy Gardner, of Saranac, Mich., and Dr. Lanza and Dr. McCounell, 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 \$8,000.00 per 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.