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United States Department of Commerce
Bureau of Mines Co-operative Clinic
Fisher, Wale.

January 17, 1931

Dr. A. J. Lanza,
Assistant Medical Director
Metropolitan Life Ins. Co.,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Lanza:

I finished reading the plates of asbestosis cases that you sent down. I wish to apologize for the delay in getting these plates back to you, but following the Christmas holidays we have been short of doctors and have had a rush of work incidental to the establishment of a profiling card system in the field, which has kept us very busy. I hope that the delay has not caused you any inconvenience. My interpretations have been attached to each film, and I will forward the films to you by express Sunday, the 18th.

I wish to say that this is the best set of pictures I have seen in a long time. They are well made and the technique is that used for the detection of silicosis and asbestosis which gives the best results. The group shows a very high percentage of asbestosis and a few cases of healed or active suspected tuberculosis. However, the number of tuberculars compared with the number having asbestosis is small.

One of the surprising things to me is the large number with evidence of heart disease and I am wondering if this bunch, like the Fisher bunch, will not show a high incidence of venereal infection (syphilis). One of the cases in particular has a great deal of evidence of lung pathology that I believe is either a chronic or fibroid tuberculosis or syphilis and I am inclined to believe that it is syphilis. Whether the spirochetal infection of the lung is of the type (Vincent) as believed by Saranac Lake or as we believe here from a study of the literature that gives a positive Wassermann makes little difference from the therapeutic point of view, as these cases show a real improvement upon the administration of arsphenamines.

I have enjoyed very much reading these pictures; they seem to be very good, very interesting, and I will be glad to read any others that you have.

Yours respectfully,

(S.S.D.) F. V. Meriwether,
Surgeon in Charge, U.S.Bureau of Mines
P.A.Surgeon, U.S.P.H.S.

[redacted]

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF MINES
WASHINGTON June 21, 193[illegible].

Dr. A. J. Lanza,
Metropolitan Life Insurance Co.,
New York, N. Y.

The Pres: will you please sign in duplicate

Dear Dr. Lanza:

I am inclosing two copies of the agreement, together with a tentative outline, for the cooperative investigation.

You will note that the outline is prepared so that the studies may be carried out wherever seems best and you will also note a statement in the agreement proper that the outline may be modified from time to time by mutual agreement. It probably will need modification occasionally.

Objective No. III has to deal with infection and is the basis of our special interest in connection with the Picker study at this time. We are already preparing to carry out part of the work at Pittsburgh and have recently rented two rooms in Miami for that portion of the study.

If you approve of the outline, will you please submit the agreement to Mr. Ecker for his signature and return the two signed copies to me for the signature of the Director and the approval of the Secretary.

Yours sincerely,

R. P. Sayers

R. P. SAYERS
Chief Surgeon, U.S.B.of M.
Surgeon, U.S.P.H.S.

Inclosure No. 8011.

COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT
between
THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
and
METROPOLITAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

This agreement made by and between the Department of Commerce of the United States, acting through the Bureau of Mines (hereinafter referred to as the "Bureau") and Metropolitan Life Insurance Company of New York, N. Y., (hereinafter referred to as the "Company"):

WITNESSETH:

The Bureau in consideration of the covenants herein made by the Company agrees to continue and extend its studies now being conducted at Fisher, Oklahoma, and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for the study and demonstration of respiratory diseases of employees of mining companies.

The Bureau agrees to furnish all medical apparatus, supplies, technical staff, laboratory equipment, supervision, and advice necessary to conduct a clinic of sufficient capacity to make careful examination of all such employees submitting themselves for examination at least once during each twelve months period of this contract.

The Bureau agrees that in addition to furnishing the equipment mentioned above it will expend or cause to be expended in such work the cash sum of $8,000 annually except as provided herein.

This work shall be carried on under the supervision and direction of the Bureau in a manner satisfactory to both parties hereto and no persons shall be retained in such work that is objectionable to the Company or its officers.

The plan of the investigation will be in accordance with the attached tentative outline. The plan may be changed by mutual consent of both parties to this agreement.

Publications of the results of this investigation shall be under the control of the Director of the Bureau. All manuscripts, before publication, shall be submitted to the Company for comment and criticism. Due acknowledgment will be made in the publications of the cooperation of the Company.

The Company, in consideration of the proposals of the Bureau made herein, agrees to provide a fund of $5,000, to be used to help defray the expenses and extension of such studies. Payments from this fund shall be made by the Company upon certificate of the Bureau in a manner as the parties hereto may from time to time agree.

Upon approval of the Secretary of the Department of Commerce, this agreement shall be effective from July 1, 1932, and shall remain in force and effect until June 30, 1933. If the said Bureau of the Department of Commerce shall in writing during the month of July, 1933, notify the Company of their intention and desire to continue such studies for an additional twelve month period, then and in such event this agreement shall be considered as renewed for such further period of time, expiring on June 30, 1934, and the Company will pay toward such expense for such twelve months period the sum of $3,000 in the manner as hereinbefore provided.

In witness whereof the parties have hereunto set their hands by their duly authorized officers this _____ day of _____, 1932.

WITNESSES:

_____

_____

_____

_____

BUREAU OF MINES:

By _____
Director

METROPOLITAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

By _____
Title

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Approved _____, 1932.

_____
Secretary



At a meeting held at the office of Johns-Manville on July 15, 1931 the question of physical examinations of employees at the various J-M plants was discussed with the following present:- Drs. A. J. Lanza and McConnell of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, and Messrs. Voorhees, Pond, Hughes and Sager.

Dr. Lanza, in line with his recommendations in his formal published report on the study of the effects of asbestos dust, again recommended that all applicants for work, and all old employees be examined; and that all employees be given examinations at intervals of two or three years. In general, Dr. Lanza thought that if we examined all employees every two years, we would be well on the side of caution of doing everything in that line that could be expected of us. He thought every three years might easily suffice. In his report, however, Dr. Lanza speaks of these examinations being given every one or two years, and it is the writer's opinion that the aim should be in general to give these examinations every two years, keeping in mind that in the more dusty and more hazardous departments it might be well to give them more frequently than every two years, and in those that are more free from dust, three years might be the period.

It was pointed out that we can easily cause applicants for positions to submit to examinations, both physical and X-ray, but that a little difficulty might be encountered with old employees. The details of this will have to be worked out at each location by those who are most familiar with the attitudes and characteristics of the men on this subject. It was thought perhaps best to point out to the old employees the benefits which might accrue to them by having themselves examined at regular intervals, and in that way getting their cooperation.

Instead of installing an X-raying machine, Dr. Lanza suggested the installation of Fluoroscope equipment. Dr. Lanza thought that the cost of a Fluoroscope set was not more than $1,000. Dr. Lanza expressed the opinion that the average examining physician could be trained in two weeks' time to interpret intelligently a Fluoroscopic view of the lungs. He also felt that the examination need take very little time, suggesting that the physician could listen to the employee's heart, take a look through the Fluoroscope and complete the entire examination in two minutes' time. The suggestion was also made that if the Fluoroscope shows a suspicion of tuberculosis or fibrosis but does not enable a certain diagnosis to be made, then perhaps it might be necessary to have an X-ray picture taken.

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On the question of training physicians to interpret Fluoroscopic views, Dr. McConnell is to let us know whether or not Chicago and Los Angeles are in position to give such training to our men at these two points. If they are not, it may be necessary for us to bring these men to Manville.

It was thought advisable to get one Fluoroscope set each to be used at the following locations:

Manville
Waukegan
Lompoc.

This means the acquisition of three sets. The Fluoroscope equipment at Asbestos seems to be a combination Fluoroscope or X-ray. It is not a very good X-ray set but an effort should be made to determine whether or not the Fluoroscope part of the equipment would suffice for use at Asbestos. At such locations as Alexandria, Dayton and Oroton it might be possible to use the Waukegan set.

On the question of what should be done in the case of the discovery of tuberculosis or asbestosis in any employee Dr. Lanza made the following suggestions:

(1) Anyone having tuberculosis in any stage whatsoever should not be permitted to work in the plant. This policy should be followed not only because the afflicted individual should for his own sake get out of the industry, but because of the contagion of the disease. Others in the plant might easily become infected.

(2) Where the lungs show signs of fibrosis, the employee should be transferred to a location in the plant where the exposure is not so great.

Dr. Lanza is very strongly of the opinion that asbestosis should be made compensable under the New Jersey la He feels that this is the only protection which the industry ha and that permitting the disease to remain outside the scope class lends encouragement to unethical lawyers and physicians to work up claims.

Dr. McConnell mentioned incidentally that their Mr Fahmel had studied the effects of the Fairborn pressure mask, which is supposed to be the last word in mask development, an discovered quite a high count of particles which had formed

their way through the mask, thus tending to demonstrate the ineffectiveness of masks. Reference also was made to the report of the New York State Department of Labor dated June 16, 1931, a copy of which we have, in which the statement is made that masks are not effective in protecting workmen from the perils of breathing rock dust.

CLARENCE L. SAGER