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

SEP 29 P.M.

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

MET-248

September 28, 1944

Dr. George M. Wheatley
Medical Director
Metropolitan Life Insurance Company
New York, New York

Dear Dr. Wheatley:

I have recently been in communication with Mr. Vandiver Brown and the local attorneys of the Canadian Asbestos interests regarding the matter of your proposed investigation of the incidence of tuberculosis in the Province of Quebec. I have assured these gentlemen that it would be most desirable from every standpoint if one could obtain more accurate information on the incidence of tuberculosis in this section of Canada. The local doctors appreciate that they have a problem but I am not sure that they realize how serious it is. From the claims standpoint in the asbestos industry I think there is a tendency to attribute much of this infection to exposure to asbestos dust. I don't believe that this opinion can be substantiated because in other sections of this country where there is much more asbestosis than there is in Quebec, the tuberculosis rates are not excessive. In fact in North Carolina there is less tuberculosis in those exposed to asbestos dust than in all the other industries.

I believe it would be most desirable if your organization could establish both male and female rates in the communities of Thetford and Asbestos and also as controls determine rates in other industrial towns of similar size. This would afford the information which is badly needed on the tuberculosis rates among those exposed to asbestos and provide adequate controls. I would be very much surprised if you found any excess of tuberculosis in the exposed male population of the communities where asbestos is mined and milled. A bulletin published by the Metropolitan setting forth these findings would do much to clarify the local opinions on this matter.

We have completed our counts on Mr. Fehnel's samples of the dust taken at Manville and find that the total concentrations are apparently low. Most of the samples contain appreciable amounts of asbestos fibre and we are looking forward to making a comparative study of the material that he will collect in Quebec in the coming weeks.

With best regards,

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Sincerely yours,

Leroy U. Gardner, M. D.
Director

LUG:RH cc to Mr. Brown