

December 19, 1935

Mr. Charles Wesley Dunn
608 Fifth Avenue
New York City
New York

Dear Mr. Dunn:

I acknowledge herewith with thanks your letter of December 17th with its comments on various affairs. In general the conclusions which you have drawn appear to be reasonably well founded in so far as the observations have been concluded. On the other hand I do not believe it is safe without further proof to draw any conclusions concerning the natural "X" content of chicle. Nor do I believe that we can justify at present a conclusion that the manufactured gum always appears on the market with less than the quantities permitted by law.

Concerning the control of chicle for importation, I am not convinced that there is any feasible way at present for accomplishing this purpose through analytical means, and I am inclined to feel that if it is shown that appreciable quantities of "X" are always the result of contamination, then some form of inspection and control of the methods of collection will be more useful than the setting up of a mechanism for analysis. I am not convinced that any method of sampling and analysis will serve adequately to eliminate contaminated materials from the market. It would be easier, I believe, to eliminate significant opportunities for contamination.

In the matter of plant control I suspect that it will be possible on the basis of proper information to set up a simple mechanism of control which will check the product at a point in the process at which a sample can be taken to represent entire batches of filtered gum base. Obviously the proper point at which to control plant operations can be selected only on the basis of future observations.

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Mr. C. W. Dunn

In accordance with your request I am enclosing herewith a list of materials which are in the laboratory at present for study. Our analytical work on these materials is being checked by Drs. Cowgill and Prescott in accordance with an understanding arrived at by Mr. Yates and representatives of the manufacturers. From time to time as the necessity for dividing samples arises, Mr. Yates is issuing instructions as to the manner of division. I can assure you that if the three of us find that the manner of procedure is not giving adequate check, we shall suggest such alterations in the program as are necessary to accomplish the desired purpose.

I am very glad the Washington meeting can be postponed until my return from abroad. The work in our laboratory is laid out in a systematic manner and will proceed during my absence. From time to time reports on analyses finished will be submitted for the most part without more than the most conservative comment and interpretation. It will be wise, in my opinion, if we leave the interpretation of detailed results until such a time as more information is available.

Cordially yours,

RAK:ls

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.

Copy to Mr. Yates

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