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May 12, 1933

SUBJECT:

Dr. A. J. Lanza,
Assistant Medical Director,
Metropolitan Life Insurance Co.,
New York City, New York.

Dear Dr. Lanza:

Dr. Leroy G. Gardner desires to study some of the lung specimens from the Gailley Bridge, West Virginia, cases in order to determine the presence and extent of, or absence, of infection. Dr. Clayton H. Smith, Ohio State University, who has already chemically analyzed samples of the lungs in two of the cases, has also arranged to analyze the remaining cases (some right now at hand). In order not to complicate each other's material, all three of us have tentatively agreed to a meeting at Gailley Bridge early in July. I have asked Dr. L. V. Barless, Gailley Bridge, whether Friday, July 7th, would suit his convenience, to which he has just replied that such would be very agreeable to him and that he will be glad to co-operate in every way possible. He also thinks that he will have some more specimens by that date and that the two radiologists from Charleston, Drs. Hagley and Lambert, will have a lot of X-ray films, while several living cases can be presented for a study. Dr. Barless' cases total about 100, which he thinks are in various stages of silicosis, with some 10 autopsies thus far.

Dr. Gardner, Dr. Smith and Dr. Barless have also agreed to present papers in their respective fields covering these cases at the Indianapolis Meeting of the American Public Health Association.

I am inviting the members of our American Public Health Association Committee to attend this conference to be held in Gailley Bridge, Friday (and I suspect also Saturday), July 7th (and 8th). Should it turn out, however, that this particular time will not be convenient for the members of our Committee, we will try to arrange another date. I also see no reason why others who are particularly interested should not be invited to be present which will be agreeable to Dr. Barless. I have particularly in mind Dr. Keasler of the Committee on Standards and Secretary of the Section on Industrial Hygiene, and Dr. Moberg, President of this Section, but each of you may care to add to the list.

There is a very convenient new tourist hotel, or road house, at Gailley Bridge. We can trust Dr. Barless to find a convenient meeting room. Incidentally, I think it would be best to keep our conference confidential so that it may not get into the public papers. I don't want it to be so.

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I will send to you in the course of a few days a copy of my evidence and also that of Dr. Clayton S. Smith in connection with the trial of the first case, Raymond J. Johnson vs. Rinehart & Dennis Company, et al, held at Fayetteville, West Virginia (March and April). This will give you some more insight of the details of this unusual situation.

Please reply as soon as possible so that I can confirm the meeting all around.

Sincerely yours,

Clayton S. Smith

Clayton S. Smith, Esq.,
Chief, Division of Examinations,
Executive, Occupational Division