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November 2, 1944

CORRECTION
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Doctor Leroy U. Gardner
Director of Saranac Laboratory
Saranac Lake, New York

Dear Doctor Gardner:

Again, I am writing to you for an opinion, this time in regard to a case thought to be one of asbestosis. Dr. Chavlen and I would greatly appreciate it if you would find time to review the case.

The gross findings are, I believe, consistent with published reports. However, microscopically, numerous active and regressive tubercular lesions are encountered in the lungs and the tracheo-bronchial lymph nodes and a rare tubercle is found in the spleen, liver, myocardium and kidneys. The character and distribution of these non-casating tubercles is suggestive of sarcoidosis. Yet, in the lung asbestos bodies are present within some of the lesions, and within foreign body giant cells. In addition, there are areas of linear fibrosis with intact asbestos bodies.

The paucity of asbestos bodies, as compared with sections you kindly sent to me several years ago, the absence of a more-pronounced fibrosis in the lungs, and the tubercular lesions in the lungs, nodes, and several of the organs, have led me to believe that the lesions are mixed, being one predominantly of sarcoidosis, and minimally one of asbestosis.

This is, to my knowledge, the first necropsy in which asbestosis bodies have been demonstrated in our series or that of the Cincinnati General Hospital. In view of this and, to me, the peculiarity of the lesions it would be extremely desirable to have your expert opinion.

I am sending under separate cover, stained and unstained slides, the necropsy report, and clinical abstract. The limited occupational history is all we have at the present time.

Very truly yours

R. J. Ritterhoff

R. J. Ritterhoff, M. D.
DIRECTOR OF LABORATORIES

PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT

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Ritterhoff