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SA-421

PARK SQUARE BUILDING
BOSTON, MASS.

February 21, 1936.

Dr. Leroy U. Gardner, Director,
Saranac Laboratory,
Saranac Lake, N. Y.

Personal

51451

Re: Autopsy Material on Asbestosis

Dear Dr. Gardner:

I am still endeavoring to place in your hands some of the above material for which we made arrangements for Dr. Timothy Leary to obtain. The enclosed letter to Dr. Leary is self-explanatory. I do not, indeed, know the exact reasons for the delay other than that Dr. Leary is an extremely busy medical examiner as well as being specifically interested in a basic study of atherosclerosis or the deposit of cholesterol in the coronary arteries with advancing age.

I am going to tell you frankly, as a layman, of course, why I am interested in this question of the real histological lesions produced by so-called asbestos dust and I am presuming to assume that you could find some additional human specimens of value in this connection. The examinations that our own petrographer (two different experts in turn) made of dust samples we obtained from asbestos fabrication plants and the dust sample used by yourself in animal experimentation with asbestos (you will recall supplying us with such a sample) all showed not only the true asbestos fibers but also and in much greater numerical amount, particulate matter identified petrographically as serpentine and talc.

Naturally the question arises in the lay mind as to which of these different and distinct substances from a mineralogical ~~department~~ standpoint is causing the pathological changes or the bulk of it in so-called asbestosis cases. I need not tell you, of course, that what we call talc industrially forms a quite severe quantitative exposure in certain business such as Rubber Goods Manufacturing. If this industry is now building up an important group of "asbestosis" cases, the sooner we know it, the better. You will pardon my butting into this basic pathological question.

With kind regards, I remain,

Very truly yours,

S. E. Whiting

S. E. Whiting
Asst. Chief Engineer.

SEW:MP