

FILE NAME: Saranac (SAR)

DATE: 1945 Apr

DOC#: SAR052

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Letter from Dr. Gardner to Asbestos Textile Co.
RE Company's Interest in Joining Other Asbestos Manufacturers in
Contributing to Building Fund

COPY

THE SARANAC LABORATORY
For The Study of Tuberculosis
of the Edward L. Trudeau Foundation
SARANAC LAKE, N.Y.

April 15, 1946

Mr. Thomas L. Gatke, President,
Asbestos Textile Company, Inc.,
165 West Wacker Drive,
Chicago 1, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Gatke:

I am glad to learn that you and Mr. Bowditch had opportunity to confer on his recent visit to Chicago. I realize too fully that I have been remiss in the matter of publication of the results of our studies of the asbestosis problem and it weighs heavily on my conscience. The war has imposed particularly perplexing problems on a small organization such as ours; two of our key men are still in the service and I have been compelled to travel a great deal. I have had a series of substitute pathologists who do a little work while they finish their cure of tuberculosis and often have to go back to bed as soon as they become useful. The last one has just left us. As a consequence, I have been compelled to take over both the technical jobs as well as my own administrative duties as each becomes most urgent. Time for writing has been at a premium; I have even had to let annual reports of the Laboratory lapse for the time being.

However, my interest in asbestosis has never lagged, and I am still finding opportunity to learn more about the clinical and industrial aspects of the subject. I am sorry if the lack of a report has embarrassed you and will do my best to provide one as soon as the problem of personnel can be settled.

In face of this situation, Mr. Bowditch's intimation of your intention to join with most of the other asbestos manufacturers in contributing to our building fund is somewhat embarrassing, but I am truly grateful.

More assistants are obviously essential. Mr. Bowditch is already relieving me of many administrative problems, but I still need technical help. At present we have no room for another man. The proposed addition to the Laboratory will permit all of us to function more adequately. We look forward to doing a better job as soon as this becomes available.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) Leroy U. Gardner
Leroy U. Gardner
Director

LUG:LB

- 2 -

of demonstrating cancer. No attempt was made to control the observation. No care was taken to select a strain of mice that was or was not susceptible to tumor. Cancer has not developed in any other species of animal used in the experiment.

In view of the publicity given cancer of the lung, I thought that the subject deserved further experimental investigation. I have made a proposal to the National Cancer Institute for a grant of \$15,000. to carry on a three-year experiment. I talked the matter over with Dr. Rhoads of the Memorial Hospital and he was highly enthusiastic. As a member of the appropriation committee of the National Cancer Institute, he made favorable recommendation. However, other members of the committee turned it down and the subject was then dropped. I still believe that it might be a suitable matter for further investigation.

More important, however, would be the analysis of films of persons employed in the asbestos industry. If a large enough number of such films were reviewed by one central agency, I am quite sure that we would have evidence to controvert the implications of the case reports now in the medical literature.

I enclose a reprint by two of my associates dealing with the general subject of pulmonary cancer and inhaled dust. In the bibliography I have checked several articles reporting cases in asbestos workers.

Sincerely yours,

s/ Roy
Leroy U. Gardner
Director

LUG:LS
WCS. (2)