October 22, 1948

Mr. Ernest Muehlock
Mr. J. F. D. Rohrbach

Dr. [illegible]

Report on Asbestos Experiments

What purports to be "Part I" of a report by the Saranac Laboratory entitled "Asbestos Pneumoconiosis" has been received. My comments after a preliminary study are contained in the memorandum attached.

I solicit your views with respect to the report and my comments and also your advice as to how we should proceed from this point.

My comments are based on a study of the text of the report only. I have not studied the tables. I have not re-read Dr. Gardner's various interim reports for the purpose of comparing them with this one. In the event further comments are suggested by study of the tables and interim reports, I will write you next Monday.

You will note in the memorandum I suggest eliminating reference to tumors and also to pneumonia. I also suggest that this report be confined to the results of the experiments with animals and not considered as the first part of a study of the effect of asbestos dust on both animals and human beings. I suggest this segregation because I believe Dr. Vorwald, who has succeeded Dr. Gardner at Saranac, will be difficult to deal with [illegible] it comes to suggesting the elimination of anything that he believes is even remotely covered by Dr. Gardner's notes. My [illegible] derives from Johns-Manville's experience with him in [illegible] with diatomaceous earth experiments which, like the [illegible] studies, had not been completed at the time of [illegible] Gardner's death. If the report is limited to the animal experiments, our right to criticize and suggest changes before publication, or even to forbid publication, is unquestionable. If we permit it to be made part of a report covering more than the animal experiments, our position is not so strong.

A situation is developing with the miners in Quebec that urgently requires that some report based on Dr. Gardner's experiments be made available as a counter agent to opinions

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
JM 181
Blumberg No. 5113

being expressed and conclusions arrived at by Quebec physicians and officials upon the basis of surmise, social ideology, and inadequate information. Time therefore is of the essence and your prompt consideration of the report and your advice as to procedure will be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Vandiver Brown
Secretary

VB:s
Enc.

bl cc A. B. Fisher
L. C. Hart
J. P. Woodard