

December 10, 1957

Anthony J. Lanza, M.D.  
Assistant Medical Director  
Metropolitan Life Insurance Company  
1 Madison Avenue  
New York, New York

Dear Tony:

Thank you for your note of December 8th. I find that we also have a copy of "Solvents" by Durrans and, judging from its well thumbed appearance, it is a useful tome.

You will recall that we have a Dust and Fume Code Committee which is engaged in setting up maximum allowable concentrations for dusts and fumes. As to silica dust, we are planning to follow the recommendations of your Medical Committee of the National Silicosis Conference and our figures on the various industrial fumes are those which I showed you the other day. While asbestos is at present so very important factor in Massachusetts industry, I feel that we should nevertheless set up some sort of a figure for it and I would be very grateful if you would be willing to give me your advice on this. You will no doubt feel that this is just what you don't want to do, but I hope that you will be a good guy nevertheless and give me at least what you regard as a "best guess".

I had quite a talk today with Bradley Dewey, president of the Dewey & Almy Chemical Company, who formerly owned the Multibest Company, the concern about whose former employees Dr. Hayes has recently so eloquently written. I mentioned to him Roy Gardner's opinion that asbestosis is definitely not progressive and was quite surprised to have him take pretty definite issue with this. He gave it as his opinion that the four principal types of asbestos, Canadian, Russian, Rhodesian and African, varied markedly in their pulmonary effect and he thought that the results of experiments with one type would not hold for another. Dewey is a highly intelligent chap and definitely one of the leaders in industrial chemistry in this country; also, incidentally, an ex-colonel in the Chemical Warfare Service. If you have any dope which would be interesting in reply to his theory about the different types of asbestos, I would be more than glad to be able to transmit it to him.

Sincerely,

Manfred Bowditch  
Director

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