PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT
MET-562

CONFIDENTIAL COPY

(Original in long hand)

North Beightons
Lowerfold
Rochdale, Lancs.
England

December 3, 1953

Dear Dr. Smith:

It was kind of you to send greetings and the paper on occupational cancer per John Beattie. I have read it with great interest.

I am afraid that I am over due with information which I promised to let you have last year. When I returned home I went through all my documents relating to carcinoma of the lung and asbestosis and found - as usual - that there were some gaps to be made good. I did a search for the missing information through coroners' files and other places and felt in May in a position to approach Richard Doll with my figures. As expected they were not complete enough about the population at risk and we decided to concentrate on men who had been in the industry for 20 yrs. or more. We would have liked the 10 & 15 yr. groups but while we knew the numbers we did not know the fate of all these in detail as the war years were included and there was a considerable dispersion of workers. After an interview and some correspondence he has just reported on this 20 yr. group. This was a group of 114 men with 11 carcinomas of the lung and asbestosis. All who had died in the group - 39 - had been autopsied so the information was fairly complete.

Doll has concluded that (1) the data collected are adequate for testing whether prolonged and heavy exposure to asbestos dust predisposed to lung cancer on grounds of completeness and size. (2) that asbestosis is, in fact, associated with a heavy risk of development of lung cancer & (3) that the risk to which men are exposed - if over 20 yrs. or more in conditions which have in the past obtained in the industry - is of the order of ten times that to which members of the general public (men) are subject. The appropriate table is:

Cause of Death	Expected No. of Deaths	Actual Deaths
Pul. TB	1.0	1*
Cancer of lung	.8	11
All other respiratory & cardiovascular diseases	7.0	21
All other cancer	2.3	4
All other causes	5.0	2
TOTAL	16.1	39

*One of the persons with lung cancer also had pul. tuberculosis.

This is just the summary and I will let you have the whole thing later. There are many interesting qualifying facts about the whole matter which I have gathered and a certain amount of information showing that the

trend is being reversed. I do not think that the milder type of asbestosis we now see will produce carcinoma in this volume. A survey in xxx five years from now will demonstrate the truth or otherwise of this view.

I have not yet discussed this information with my directors so I hope you will consider it confidential as far as publication is concerned. I hope to write this up but a little period must elapse before I can find time - I am still in general practice!

I hear that you have got the other paper from John Beattie. It was not as polished as I would have liked but the material is quite interesting I think. We worked on it on a final hectic week-end visit which John paid to me and it bears traces of the rush of those days. I wonder if it has proved acceptable to the publishers and if so when is it likely to appear. The British industrial medical group meets in July next in Manchester and I wonder if it will be in print by then.

Your family will be growing fast. The lively boy will probably be livelier than ever and the little baby who slept so peacefully through my Sunday afternoon visit is probably a match for him now. May I send my respects to your wife who was so kind to me on my visit to you.

My wife joins me in sending Christmas Greetings to you all and hope that in your future wanderings you may pay a visit to Rochdale and stay with us.

By the way Dr. Lanza looked us up one day and had a look around. Prof. R. E. Lane came with him. It was his first visit to us and they both seemed interested in what they saw. We are in the throes of a major development plan at the Turner Works and and hope this will finally solve our dust problem. We propose to do quite a bit of oiling of fibre as well as damping and will use non-carcinogenic oil. (This is also a cotton mule spinning area and I have seen many epitheliomata of the scrotum in my time).

If you have managed to read this length you have done well & I will not prolong the agony,

All the best,

John F. Knox, M.D.

(signed)