

SAFETY IS BETTER THAN COMPENSATION

GREGORY
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DIVISION OF
SAFETY AND HYGIENE

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SECRETARY

THE INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION OF OHIO
COLUMBUS

T. P. KEARNS
SUPERINTENDENT
A. L. ROSE
ASST. SUPT.

December 26, 1935

Dr. Robert A. Kehoe,
University of Cincinnati,
College of Medicine,
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Doctor:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter of December 23, regarding the examination of one of our claimants. In order to further explain the purpose of my former letter I wish to advise that when the commission authorizes a special examination of one of our claimants a physician is selected who is thought to be particularly qualified to pass upon the question at issue. The report submitted is supposed to be the opinion of the physician who has been selected and the fee for the examination is payable to him. You can readily see therefore that it is necessary to have a report from the man to whom the claimant has been referred; furthermore these reports when filed become a part of the claim and in this respect are very much like medical testimony. It would be difficult in a court for a physician to give testimony regarding the physical condition of a man whom he had not personally examined. We do not wish to convey the idea that the report submitted by your assistant was not accurate or did not in any way give a satisfactory medical opinion but for the reasons above indicated I know that the commission would prefer therefore a report based upon your own physical examination and submitted over your signature. This does not mean that laboratory examinations or special tests could not be delegated to someone of your choosing.

I know that you are not always in Cincinnati and it was largely for this reason that I wrote to know if you would be available for this examination. We will submit the claim to the commission for authority to refer this man to you for examination and if the request is granted the file will probably be sent to you and you may write to the claimant and arrange for him to appear at some time meeting with your convenience.

Very truly yours,

W. E. Abetz
Medical Investigator.

WEC:LH

KE 0016485

N10220

December 23, 1935

Re: OD 12619
A. J. Cole

Dr. W. B. Obetz
Medical Investigator
The Industrial Commission of Ohio
Columbus, Ohio

Dear Dr. Obetz:

This is to acknowledge your letter of December 20th. I am very much surprised to hear that a report made some time ago from the laboratory was regarded as unsatisfactory because I did not make the examination in person. Because of an engagement which took me out of the laboratory, I arranged for my associate, Dr. Machle, to see the man in my behalf, and the facilities of the laboratory were, of course, at his disposal for such use as might be made of them. Dr. Machle has been associated with me for a number of years and we have worked together very closely on experimental and clinical studies. It may be that for some matter of form my transference of the case to him was unsatisfactory, but I am quite certain that there was no actual unsatisfactory factor in the examination and report. Both Dr. Machle and I have considered it necessary, quite apart from any matter of compensation, to make as careful a study of such cases as have come to us as we could make.

I make the above statement for the reason that from time to time my engagements take me out of the laboratory after appointments of various kinds have been made, and by reason of our close work together here in the laboratory, I am able to delegate various items of my work to certain of my associates without any loss in the effectiveness of the work. I have felt in these Industrial Commission cases that the work of the laboratory as a unit is perhaps more important and more significant than the work of any one person associated with it, and I have handled these cases accordingly. Actually we have never been interested in doing these from the point of view of compensation since from that point of view they would be regarded as a waste of our time. We are rather interested in them because of our concern with the general experimental and clinical problem which they present, and because

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. Obetz

also of a certain sense of professional duty.

Notwithstanding the above comments, this is to assure you that if you will let me know in advance so that a suitable date can be arranged, I shall be glad personally to examine and make report on this man.

Very truly yours,

RAK:is

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.