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May 11, 1951

Dr. William C. Smith,
Law Dept. University of Illinois Medical Center,
177 First Avenue,
New York 16, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Smith,

In your report, I am pleased to read you a relation
based on the incidence of cancer of the lung among the asbestos
workers in Quebec.

On analyzing this statement, it seems obvious that
many points would need discussion before any one will be able to
establish a causal relationship between known pathological findings
and the asbestos factor.

It is not more logical to think that the same
causal factor will produce the same variety of tumor and therefore
also may be an effective cause of malignant tumors?

It is not more logical to think that the same
factor might produce a bronchogenic carcinoma in asbestos
workers with significant exposure, with only a small number of
cases would have no evidence of exposure? Is it not possible
that the same factor might produce a bronchogenic carcinoma in
asbestos workers with significant exposure and that the same
factor might produce a bronchogenic carcinoma in asbestos workers
with no evidence of exposure?

In a last remark, it would appear necessary that one
establish an occupational career of the lung to be considered,
which includes the period of exposure to the asbestos.

I will be interested and anxious to receive a copy
of the proceedings of the meeting and also to have directly your
criticism, remarks and comments on this statement.

It is a pleasure to bring this matter to your attention
in your more important research work.

Very respectfully,
W.C. Smith

W.C. Smith, M.D.

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