

FILE NAME: Raybestos-Manhattan (RBM)

DATE: 1936 Oct 30

DOC#: RBM102

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Letters between Saranac, Johns-Manville & Raybestos Manhattan RE Cases of Asbestosis

*Dr. Dorset*

THE SARANAC LABORATORY FOR THE STUDY OF TUBERCULOSIS  
OF  
THE EDWARD L. TRUDEAU FOUNDATION

POST OFFICE BOX 551  
7 CHURCH STREET  
SARANAC LAKE, N.Y.

January 2, 1937

Mr. S. Simpson  
Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc.  
Bridgeport, Conn.

Dear Mr. Simpson:

You may be interested to learn that Dr. Dorset of the North Carolina State Industrial Commission has sent out an SOS to our Dr. Sampson, roentgenologist at Trudeau Sanatorium, for help in the diagnosis of 70-odd cases of alleged asbestosis. He apparently is bewildered by the medical testimony which he has heard and wired Dr. Sampson and Dr. Brumfiel, clinical consultant to this laboratory, to come down. They are leaving tonight and will make every effort to establish some sort of order in this diagnostic puzzle.

Sincerely yours,

*Leroy U. Gardner*  
Leroy U. Gardner, M.D.  
Director

LUG:CC

*30*  
*Dr. Dorset*  
*Dr. Brumfiel*  
*Dr. K. L. Brown*

*R. M. 2 11-1937*

# GENERAL ASBESTOS & RUBBER DIVISION

OF RAYBESTOS-MANHATTAN, INC.  
ASBESTOS PRODUCTS  
PACKINGS, BRAKE LINING, TEXTILES  
P.O. BOX 67

CABLE ADDRESS  
"GARCO"  
CODES USED  
DENTLEY'S  
WESTERN UNION 5 LETTER

QUOTATIONS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE. ALL AGREEMENTS CONTINGENT UPON STRIKES, ACCIDENTS OR DELAYS BEYOND OUR CONTROL  
ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COMPANY

NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C.

January 8, 1937

## Confidential

Mr. Sumner Simpson, President,  
Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc.,  
c/o Raybestos Division,  
Bridgeport, Conn.

Dear Mr. Simpson:-

I am in receipt of yours of the 5th instant, enclosing re-print of an article published by Dr. J. Rush Shull of Charlotte, N. C., also enclosing copy of the letter addressed to you by Mr. George R. Fable under date of December 18th, 1936.

I had previously received your letter of December 29th in which you enclosed a letter addressed to you by Dr. Leroy Gardener, same having been written under date of December 24th. In said letter, Dr. Gardener makes comment as to the article prepared by Dr. Shull.

I read all of these papers over very carefully last evening and, of course, this Dr. Shull uses a great many medical terms, with which I am not familiar, however, I have arranged to discuss these papers with Mr. Mitchell, and we are then going to discuss them with Dr. Lynch, who is quite a celebrated Pathologist. The only comment the writer will make is that he thinks it a very good move on your part to decide to take this question up with the Metropolitan authorities and make the arrangement which you have made with Dr. Gardner, for as stated to you on a previous occasion, the last publications tend to show that numbers of Doctors, who have been able to purchase a medical dictionary, have decided to write articles using as many as these new words as they possibly can. All of which, in the writer's opinion, tends to confuse the layman, but does not tend to solve the problem, if it is a problem.

Thanking you for having sent me these papers, I remain,

Yours very truly,

*E. H. Jeffords*

EHJ:jc

CC: Mr. Julian Mitchell  
Charleston, S. C.

E. H. Jeffords

RM 52-26  
4-29-77



# GENERAL ASBESTOS & RUBBER DIVISION

OF RAYBESTOS-MANHATTAN, INC.

ASBESTOS PRODUCTS

PACKINGS, BRAKE LINING, TEXTILES

P.O. BOX 57

CABLE ADDRESS  
"GARCO"  
CODES USED  
BENTLEY'S LETTER  
WESTERN UNION 5 LETTER

QUOTATIONS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE. ALL AGREEMENTS CONTINGENT UPON STRIKES, ACCIDENTS OR DELAYS BEYOND OUR CONTROL.  
ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COMPANY

NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C.

May 26, 1937

## PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Registered Mail  
Return Receipt Requested

Mr. Sumner Simpson, President,  
Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc.,  
Bridgeport, Conn.

Dear Mr. Simpson:-

Subject: Inspection of Plant at North Charleston  
By U. S. Public Health Service.

You will please refer to the letters as listed below:

Your letter of October 31, 1936 addressed to the writer,  
" " " " " " " to Mr. Julian Mitchell,  
" " " November 5, 1936 addressed to the writer.

My object in requesting you to refer to these letters is that you will note from same that you granted permission to the U. S. Public Health Service, through the South Carolina State Department of Health, to make an inspection of this plant. You will also note that in said letters reference is made to these Health Department officials making X-ray examinations of our employees. In regard to this, beg to advise that the officials as mentioned above did make an examination of our plant, but did not take any X-ray pictures of our employees.

I am enclosing herewith copy of a letter addressed to myself under date of May 20, 1937 by Dr. R. R. Sayers, Senior Surgeon, Chief, Division of Industrial Hygiene, National Institute of Health, U. S. Public Health Service. I am also enclosing the original of the report which was made by these officials who inspected this plant. I am also enclosing a copy of the report which includes everything except the Process Flow Sheet, Schematic Views of Different Portions of our Exhaust System, and also photographs of our equipment.

I am sending the original copy which was sent me by Dr. Sayers and will be obliged if, after you have read these papers over, you will

Rm 50-4  
4-29-7

return to me the original copy, along with the photos etc., and keep the duplicate copy to which photos are not attached for your files. I would like to have the original in this office for the use of Mr. Mitchell and myself.

You will now please refer to the letter addressed to me by Dr. Sayers and you will note that in the second paragraph of said letter, Dr. Sayers is requesting that you grant him permission to publish this paper in the official organ of the Public Health Service (Public Health Reports). Now in regard to this, I would suggest that you read over the paper headed "A STUDY OF DUST CONTROL METHODS IN AN ASBESTOS FABRICATING PLANT" very carefully, and there are one or two points which I noted when reading this paper, which I would like to call to your attention.

Number 1.

Note on page 9, first sentence of the second paragraph which reads as follows: "As a measure of the effectiveness of the dust control system in the preparation department, the exhaust fans were shut off for one hour.", then the next sentence in the same paragraph states that under these conditions dust concentrations increased steadily to about 50 M.P.P.C.F. You will note similar statements made in other portions of this report in regard to shutting off the fans in order to see how the dust concentrations would build up if there were no fans in operation, or, in other words, if we did not have a dust system.

At the same time, you will also note that the officials who made the report state that although the fans were shut off; nevertheless, the very effected manner in which we have our cards covered tended to confine the dust.

E. H. Jeffords' opinion as to the data shown under No. 1.

My opinion is that it would be very bad to publish this report with the statements as shown under No. 1 as above appearing in said report, for most of the individuals, who have brought suits against this Company, were working at this plant prior to the time we had succeeded in bringing our dust elimination system up to its present state of efficiency. Of course, you, as well as others who are competent to judge, know that nothing was known of the asbestos dust hazard, in this country, prior to 1929, and you also know that prior to '29 we were already taking steps for eliminating dust for the purpose of making working conditions as pleasant as possible for our employees.

Therefore, as stated above, my verdict is that these remarks in regard to the building up of dust concentrations by shutting off the fans should be eliminated from this report, if same is to be published.

Number 2.

At the top of page 10 you will note the report reads as follows: "This operation is supposed to be performed with both stock car and stock roller outside the bin door. This rule of keeping out of the bins should be strictly enforced. However, stock rollers, wearing respirators, like to push their cars under the chute and then climb into the car and 'tread-down' the stock." In regard to this statement, you have been in the South on one or two occasions and are more or less familiar with the habits of our colored labor. That is, they much prefer to take advantage of every labor-saving device or condition. Therefore, it is very difficult to keep these stock rollers (who are colored men) out of these stock bins. They would much rather go in the stock bin and, as stated in the report, "tread-down" the stock, than to stand outside the stock bin and fork the stock into the car. Orders have been issued in this plant to keep these men out of the stock bins but as soon as the foreman's back is turned, in the stock bin they go.

My opinion as to No. 2.

I think that the remarks in regard to the stock rollers entering the stock bins should be eliminated from the report.

Number 3.

On page 13, third paragraph, there is a statement which reads as follows "Average Exposures in the first three operations, which were not themselves especially dusty, were due to dust from the twisting operation. With the exception of a trial exhaust system on one twister, the remaining machines were unexhausted." This question of the dust in connection with the twisters has been discussed on more than one occasion with Mr. Fehnel of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. and it was decided that until we could invent some method for drawing off the dust from the twisters, we would have to take care of the dust problem by introducing a sufficient amount of fresh air through the openings in the building to "dilute" the air in the room. We have been, and still are, experimenting on some form of equipment which will enable us to remove the dust from the twisters by suction, in the same manner as we handle the dust on other equipment in this plant, but if you are familiar with the construction of a twister frame, you will realize that this is some problem. I do not know of any plant, nor have I ever heard of any plant where the dust from the twisters was taken care of by exhausting same.

Number 4.

Please refer to page 17 under the caption "Conclusion". After reading these remarks carefully, I recollect that sometime ago when the study of dust conditions at the asbestos industries were first being undertaken in this country, certain statements were made as to the size of the

Mr. Sumner Simpson

5/26/37

#4

particles and also as to the number of particles per cubic foot, but it seems that in recent years there has been some difference of opinion among the Doctors along these lines, and according to the statements as made under this general heading of "Conclusion", it would appear to me that it has not been, as yet, definitely decided as to the time of exposure to which an individual might be subjected or the conditions to which he is subjected which would cause trouble.

I am submitting the papers as mentioned above, and have also taken the liberty of expressing my opinion, and also I believe that this was a very worthwhile examination, and I greatly appreciate the statements as made by Dr. Sayers. Still, I do not think it would be well to publish this report in its present form. There are certain statements which I feel should be deleted from this report before it is published.

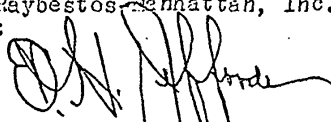
I realize that this is quite a lengthy letter but as I consider this a subject which should receive due consideration by all interested, I am submitting same for your consideration.

I will, as stated in the first part of this letter, be obliged if you will return to me the papers which are attached together, and the first one of which is headed "A STUDY OF DUST CONTROL METHODS IN AN ASBESTOS FABRICATING PLANT".

Yours very truly,

GENERAL ASBESTOS & RUBBER DIVISION  
of Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc.

By:



E. H. Jaffords,  
General Manager.

EHJ:jc  
Enc.

CC: MR. MITCHELL

*"Dust"*

Bridgeport, Conn.  
October 10, 1938

Miss A. S. Rossiter, Editor  
ASBESTOS  
16th Floor, Inquirer Bldg.  
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Miss Rossiter:

Thank you for your clipping  
from the September 24 issue of INDIA RUBBER  
JOURNAL, regarding Industrial Respirators.

I will pass this along to our  
interested parties.

Some time when you and Mr.  
Stover have a little time, think it would  
well pay you to visit our Charleston or Man-  
heim plants, and see what we have done in  
the Lust Room and Card Room, as well as other  
parts of the shop. Am quite certain you,  
and especially Mr. Stover, will be very, very  
much surprised.

Very truly yours,

SS:G



00356

# "ASBESTOS"

*Published by*

**SECRETARIAL SERVICE**



16th Floor, Inquirer Bldg.  
PHILADELPHIA, PA., U. S. A.

October 7, 1938.

Mr. S. Simpson, President,  
Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc.,  
Bridgeport, Conn.

Dear Sir:

Mr. Stover thought you might be interested in  
the attached clipping from the India Rubber Journal, con-  
cerning Industrial Respirators.

You need not return it.

Very truly yours,

"ASBESTOS"

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "A. S. Rossiter".

A. S. Rossiter, Editor.

TJ



00357

*JMS*

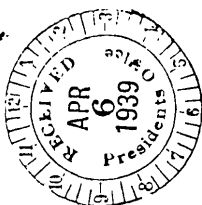
# JOHNS-MANVILLE CORPORATION

TWENTY-TWO EAST FORTIETH STREET

NEW YORK, N. Y.

EXECUTIVE OFFICES

April 5, 1939.



~~APR 6 1939~~

Sumner Simpson, Esq.,  
President,  
Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc.,  
Bridgeport, Conn.

My dear Mr. Simpson:

Thank you for yours of April 4th and the interesting article by Drs. Sayers and Dreessen, which is returned herewith.

I shall obtain a copy of the journal in which this article appeared, as I would like to add it to my files.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

*Vandiver Brown*  
Vandiver Brown,  
General Attorney.

VB:y

Enc.

005198

RM 93-Ad  
4-29-77 *JSK*

Bridgeport, Conn.  
April 2, 1943

Mr. J. H. Matthews, Asst. Facty. Mgr.  
The Manhattan Rubber Mfg. Division  
Passaic, New Jersey

My dear Mr. Matthews:

Enclosed is copy of the Industrial  
Hygiene Program of the New England Health In-  
stitute to be held in Hartford on April 16, 17,  
and 18.

I have also written Mr. Cilley  
regarding this, and he would like to attend,  
as he is interested in several of the subjects.  
Bridgeport is interested, too, and will more  
than likely have at least two going from this  
plant. Possibly some one from Passaic would  
want to attend.

Very truly yours,

SS:G

Enc.



Wednesday - April 17 (Cont'd.)

2:00 - Industrial Hygiene Training  
for the Public Health Worker.

Philip Drinker, S.B., Ch.E.  
Prof. of Industrial Hygiene,  
Harvard School of Public Health,  
Boston, Mass.

✓ 3:00 - The Effect of Various Dusts  
on the Human Organism.

LeRoy U. Gardner, M.D., Dir.,  
Saranac Laboratory for the Study  
of Tuberculosis, Saranac Lake, N.Y.

4:00 - The Industrial Solvents;  
Their Physiological Effects.

Henry Field Smyth, M.D., Dr.P.H.  
Prof. of Industrial Hygiene,  
University of Pennsylvania,  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Thursday - April 18

✓ 9:30 - Industrial Dermatitis -  
Incidence, Cause and Pre-  
vention.

Louis Schwartz, M.D., Medical  
Director, U.S. Public Health  
Service, National Institute of  
Health, Washington, D.C.

10:30 - The Use of Respiratory Pro-  
tective Equipment in the  
Protection of the Worker's  
Health.

William P. Yant, B.S., Dir.  
Research and Development, Mine  
Safety Appliances Company,  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

11:30 - Engineering Methods of Oc-  
cupational Disease Control.

Benjamin F. Postman, B.S.,  
Industrial Hygiene Engineer,  
Connecticut State Department of  
Health, Hartford, Connecticut.

RAYBESTOS-MANHATTAN, INC.

Passaic, New Jersey.

April 6, 1940.

Mr. S. Simpson, President,  
Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc.,  
Bridgeport, Connecticut.

My dear Mr. Simpson:

We thank you for the Industrial Hygiene Program of the  
New England Health Institute attached to your letter of  
April 2. We will have a representative from this Division  
at Hartford on April 17 and 18 to attend the lectures, which  
we think will be of particular interest to us.

Very truly yours,

J. H. Matthews



JHM:ETE

*End one of  
with letter is all  
at the meeting  
+ will be  
have a new  
one of the  
imp. in the  
5*

*Morning of  
April 17th - will be  
at Stratford Conn  
and drive in  
from Stratford  
Plant -*

