

0519

To the Executive

On June 25, 1929 the Welfare Committee "authorized an appropriation of \$5,000. per year for five years to the Saranac Laboratory for the purpose of enabling it in cooperation with this Company to continue bacteriological studies of silicosis."

December 14, 1933 I wrote to Doctor Lanza, "I showed to the President the first and second paragraph on Page 2 of Dr. Gardner's letter of December 12th to you; and the President says that with events turning as they are now we must not promise far in advance but that you can say that we look upon the proposition and upon the results that are being accomplished with favor and that our disposition will be to recommend renewal of the \$5,000 appropriation for another two years beginning July 1, 1934 unless meanwhile something happens to make us consider such action inadvisable." (Those two paragraphs were: "Had a meeting in Chicago with representatives of the Mutual Insurance Companies (Liberty, Lumbermans, Employers and American, I think.) Whiting and Keuekle organized it to consider a research program which they would finance here at the Laboratory. In my speech to them I mentioned that the Met. had carried us for \$5,000 annually during the last 5 years, but that I was not very certain that you would be able to continue. I therefore asked them to replace this grant with \$5,000 of their own to continue the study on TB and silicosis. They had previously written me for a schedule of necessary experimental work in which I included a study of solubility, neutralization of silica action in the body and immunity in TB and pneumonia. After my speech they took my breath away by asking me if I could do all this program simultaneously if they gave me \$10,000 a year for the next 3 years and persuaded you to continue with your present contribution. It can be done and I told them so. They are putting it up to their chiefs and seem to feel that there is good prospect of success.

"However, I don't want to be put in the position of having assumed that the Met. is going to quit before I have asked for a renewal of the appropriation and I don't want them to be bargaining with you to do something when you have already done so much and may not feel able to do more. So I lay all cards on the table.")

The 5 year appropriation described above will terminate at the end of this month. Doctors Lanza and McGonnell attended the Conferences on Silicosis at Saranac last week and Doctor Lanza says that on June 20th he "had lunch with Dr. Gardner, in company with three or four representatives of the Association of Mutual Casualty Companies. During the luncheon, Dr. Gardner received a telegram from the Secretary of this Association, notifying him that the Association had made him a grant of \$5,000 and would be inclined to listen favorably to a request for the renewal of this grant for a period of years and also possibly the increasing of the amount. It was the hope of the representatives of the Association present to have this grant increased to \$10,000 a year for three years. Mr. Graff, who represents the National Board of Surety and Casualty Underwriters, stated that he thought it was probable that the stock companies included in this Association would also support the Saranac Laboratory and it is my intention to discuss this with

Mr. Albert Whitney at a meeting that we are to have this week. As soon as I hear of any further action by the casualty companies, I shall inform you."

The question of occupational diseases which are associated with tuberculosis is of more importance to-day to the firms and wage earners which we cover with insurance, than at any time previous. Results of great value have already been attained by these research workers at Saranac Laboratory, and the promises of further and continued discoveries in the near future are brilliant. The high mortality from tuberculosis among our Industrial policyholders who are engaged in harmful occupations can and should continue to be attacked by just such research as the Saranac group are making and putting into operation.

We therefore recommend that this Company's appropriation of \$5,000 per year beginning July 1, 1934 be renewed for 3 years, if possible, and for 1 year anyway.

June 29, 1934
K-G.

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