May 9, 1946

Mr. Thomas L. Gatke, Pres.
Asbestos Textile Co., Inc.
165 West Wacker Drive
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. Gatke:

As my secretary informed you, I was away when your letter of April 18 arrived and since my return I have delayed answering until I could locate a letter of Dr. Gardner's which discussed the matter of cancer in relation to asbestos dust. I have now located and am attaching a copy of his letter of April 8 to Mr. J. P. Woodard, our Director of Industrial Relations. In view of your comments concerning this aspect of the problem, I am sure you will find his letter of interest. I am sorry I have no copy of Dr. Heuper's paper.

Dr. Gardner's approach to this question is typical very cautious, very scientific and demonstrating an unwillingness to accept any theory as a fact until the evidence is overwhelming. Dr. Bowditch correctly reported me as being somewhat annoyed and disappointed that Dr. Gardner would not lend us support in connection with a proposed New Jersey Industrial Hygiene Code to the effect that the small particles, which do the damage in the case of silica, are innocuous in the case of asbestos. His unwillingness in this connection is again characteristic and, while it is a little annoying, I think that on balance it is a favorable characteristic. At any rate we know -- and his fellow experts know -- that when Dr. Gardner states a finding it is quite likely to be correct.

Mr. Muehleck of Keasbey & Mattison Co., as well as I, has been following Dr. Gardner from time to time and urging him to prepare a definite report but we have always received during the war years substantially the same answer that he gave you. However, his excuse is now wearing a little thin, and since he is now increasing his staff, I think we should persist in our efforts to have him complete the job he started for us.

I am sending Mr. Muehleck a copy of this letter and the enclosure as I am sure he will also be interested.

With kind personal regards, I am

Sincerely,
/s/ Vandiver Brown
Secretary



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