County of Hamilton

THE TUBERCULOSIS HOSPITAL
PRICE HILL
CINCINNATI, O. OHIO

December 23, 1944

Dr. Leroy U. Gardner
The Saranac Laboratory
Saranac Lake, New York

Dear Dr. Gardner:

I am very grateful to you for reviewing my case of sarcoidosis and asbestosis. Needless to say, your confirmation of the diagnoses, even though I was wrong as to the degree of asbestosis present, made me very happy—even produced a few "chuckles." Your suggestion as to publication will be followed; I would like permission to quote you and include your findings in that report.

Tissue is being sent for chemical analysis. Would it, also, be advisable to have x-ray diffraction studies for silica? Unfortunately, I am unable to give you supplemental data in regard to his occupational history, as the local factory concerned has been uncooperative. They have not permitted me to visit the plant, nor have they given in detail his occupational history.

I have several questions concerning phases of this case about which I would like your opinion:

First, in some of the giant cells and occasionally within areas of fibrosis there are rare calcium encrusted asbestos bodies. Have these been previously described?

Second, would you care to comment upon the possible etiologic and chronologic relationships of these two diseases. I note in your letter, that pathologically "it is hard to be sure how much of the fibrosis is due to inhaled dust." Is it probable that sarcoidosis antedated and predisposed to asbestosis, or conversely so? On the basis of Pinner's belief that sarcoidosis is a modified tuberculous infection and your

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report, Jour. of Indust. Hygiene Vol 13, March 1931, on experimentally produced tuberculosis in asbestos dusted cavies, I favor the belief that in this case it is likely that asbestosis predisposed to sarcoidosis.

I will greatly appreciate your help in regard to chemical analyses, and your comments, if time permits, to the above questions.

Yours truly,

R. J. Ritterhoff

R. J. Ritterhoff, M. D.
DIRECTOR OF LABORATORIES

RJR/bmr