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KEASBEY & MATTISON COMPANY
AMBLER, PENNSYLVANIA

October 28, 1946

Confidential

Mr. Vandiver Brown
Johns-Manville Corporation
22 East 40th Street
New York 16, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Brown: Saranac Laboratory
Report on Asbestos Dust Experiments

Thank you very much for your letter of October 22nd together with copy of the Saranac Laboratory report dated September 30, 1948 entitled "Asbestos Pneumoconiosis" and also copy of your comments on the report which we briefly discussed over the telephone the other day. In addition, I wish to thank you for your letter of October 27th and for the kind invitation to be present at a luncheon in the Johns-Manville Corporation Board room on Thursday, November 11th, at 12:30 P.M. I accept with pleasure and will bring my copy of the report with me to the meeting.

I wish to make the following comments:

1. I fully agree with the views as expressed in your memorandum sent with your letter of October 22nd.

2. The report is confidential and is the property of those who advanced the funds for carrying out the experiments at the Saranac Laboratory.

3. The report should be confined to the results on animals only.

4. There should be a separate later report, not a supplementary report, dealing with human asbestosis.

5. Experiments reported on to date covering tumors and pneumonia caused by asbestos dust are inconclusive. The entire paragraph No. 92 on page 38 "Neoplasm" should be deleted.

6. The number of million asbestos particles (long and short) per cubi foot of air is, in my opinion, a more accurate and indicative measureme than the percentage of long fibres.

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To me, after having studied the report quite carefully, the following are the most significant points:

Paragraph 81, Page 34 - Comparison of Long-Fibre and Short-Fibre Dusts.

> "With quartz dust it has been demonstrated that the smaller the particles, the more intense is the tissue reaction, and that there is little reaction to particles larger than three microns in diameter. In the case of asbestos, however, the reverse is true and apparently only long fibres have any specific effect."

Paragraph 87, Page 37 - Theory of Irritant Action of Asbestos Minerals

> "In view of this evidence it seems more likely that asbestosis is caused by an unusual mechanical irritation from long asbestos fibres."

> "Further support for the theory of mechanical irritation is that asbestosis occurs in an organ of high mobility — the lung — and that a fibrous reaction can be produced by injection of asbestos fibres into the peritoneum, where there is also a degree of mobility, but not in other extrapulmonary organs."

Paragraph 90, Page 38 - Susceptibility to Tuberculous Infection

> "When the fibrous dust was being inhaled during the evolution of the infection, there was a spreading of the tuberculous process for a time but usually the stimulus for continued proliferation of the tubercle bacilli was not sustained, the progression was arrested and healing followed.

Looking forward to the pleasure of seeing you on Thursday, November 11th, and with best wishes, I remain

Yours sincerely,

President

emick

cc Mr. J. F. D. Rohrbach