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September 24, 1930

Dr. J. V. Meriwether,
Surgeon-in-Charge,
U.S. Bureau of Mines Cooperative Clinic,
Fisher, Okla.

Dear Dr. Meriwether:

Dr. MacConnell is leaving here on the 24th to go to the National Safety Meet at Pittsburgh, and from there he will go to Indianapolis and from there to St. Louis and Bonne Terre and then to Fisher, where he will arrive about the first. He will telegraph you definitely about the time. I presume it will be possible to have Fred meet him in Joplin and bring him down to Fisher.

He is bringing some X-ray pictures of asbestosis cases with him. I wish I could go over them with you but it is not feasible for Mack and me to be away from the office at the same time.

I am going to Fort Worth for the A.P.H.A. which, as you know, ends up about the 30th of October. From there I am going to Houston and then home, but if it is desirable I can come to Fisher at that time. I do not like to postpone my visits to Fisher too long but it is very difficult for me to get away now. Dr. Bright is ill and away from the office continually which necessitates my sticking fairly close to New York. Anyway I will see Sayers at Fort Worth and get a chance to talk things over with him. Maybe we can go to Fisher together.

With best regards, I am,

Sincerely,

A. J. Lanza, M.D.

U. S. P. I.
United States Department of Commerce
Bureau of Mines Co-operative Clinic
Pitcher, Okla.

January 17, 1931

Dr. A. J. Lanza.
Assistant Medical Director
Metropolitan Life Ins. Co.,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Lanza:

I finished reading the plates of asbestosis cases that you sent down. I wish to apologize for the delay in getting these plates back to you, but following the Christmas holidays we have been short of doctors and have had a rush of work incidental to the establishment of a rustling card system in the field, which has kept us very busy. I hope that the delay has not caused you any inconvenience. My interpretations have been attached to each film, and I will forward the films to you by express Monday, the 19th.

I wish to say that this is the best set of pictures I have seen in a long time. They are well made and the technique is that used for the detection of silicosis and asbestosis which gives the best results. The group shows a very high percentage of asbestosis and a few cases of healed or active suspected tuberculosis. However, the number of tuberculars compared with the number having asbestosis is small.

One of the surprising things to me is the large number with evidence of heart disease and I am wondering if this bunch, like the Pitcher bunch, will show a high incidence of venereal infection (syphilis). One of the cases in particular has a great deal of evidence of lung pathology that I believe is either a chronic or fibrotic tuberculosis or syphilis and I am inclined to believe that it is syphilis. Whether the spirochetal infection of the lung is of the type (Vincent) as we believed at Saranac Lake or as we believe here from a strain of the spirochete that gives a positive Wassermann makes little difference from the therapeutic point of view, as these cases show marked improvement under the administration of arsphenamines.

I have enjoyed very much reading these films; they have been very good, very interesting, and I will be glad to read any others that you have.

Yours respectfully,

(SIGNED) F. W. Meriwether,
Surgeon in Charge, U.S.Bureau of Mines
P.A.Surgeon, U.S.P.H.S.