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COPY

January 7, 1951

Dr. W. R. Whitman, Chief Surgeon
Norfolk and Western Railway Company
Roanoke, Virginia

Dear Dr. Whitman:

Thank you for your inquiry regarding my experience in the prognosis of pulmonary asbestosis.

It has been my experience that workers in asbestos plants who had a mild to moderately advanced asbestosis, showed little, if any, progressive involvement in the lung fields when removed from the dust hazard. The majority of the patients whom I observed over a period of six to eight years returned to other gainful types of occupation.

I am convinced that the disease is not progressive, as in contrast, is silicosis, nor does it predispose to acid fast infection.

Follow-up films on a great number of my patients did not demonstrate much clearing in the lung fields although their vital capacities were within a normal range. In every patient afflicted with this dust disease in the lungs, the x-ray picture of the chest was out of proportion to their clinical symptoms.

I am enclosing one of my original reprints for your files.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ J. Rush Shull

J. Rush Shull, M. D.

JRS/ch