

February 1, 1951

Mr. L. D. Hokerk
Kerk Guild, Inc.
Whitesboro, New York

Re: Skin Conditions

Dear Mr. Hokerk:

Dr. Nelson and I have reviewed your letter of January 29 together with a copy of the letter from Dr. Dantsig. It is our opinion that the eye complications suffered by Mr. Ferris which is evidenced by some type of hemorrhaging in his eye would have no relationship to the dermatitis that he complained of. The eye condition is probably just coincidental.

From Dr. Dantsig's report, it seems possible that there may be some active agent in the red wine or red sonnet quilting the plastic which is not present in the other materials being handled. It might be helpful to Dr. Dantsig if you could supply him with information as to the type of dyes used in the same as the dye could be the offending agent. As we told you when you were here, there has not been any indication that the stabilized film itself is an active sensitiser. It has been used in so many personal applications for so many years that if it was an active sensitiser, we should have been aware of the same. I assume that the same plasticizer is used in all these films irrespective of their color.

In event we can be of further service, do not hesitate to let us know.

Very truly yours,

INDUSTRIAL TOXICOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Thos. W. Hale, M.D.

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Kerk Guild

INCORPORATED

Artists in Accessories

Whitesboro, New York

29 January 1951

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JAN 30 1951

IND. TOXICOLOGY DEPT.

Dr. Thomas W. Nale
Industrial Toxicology Department
Union Carbide and Carbon Corp.
30 East 42nd Street
New York 17, New York

Dear Dr. Nale:

Apropos of my recent visit with you which was arranged through the courtesy of Mr. James Knowles, I am enclosing herewith a copy of the last report we have received from Dr. Louis Dantzig, our local Dermatologist.

Mr. Paparella is looking more like a human being now and should be back to normal in a couple of weeks.

The abdominal rash which bothered Mr. Ferris is pretty well cleared up, but he is now suffering from other complications which include temporary blindness in one eye due to some type of hemorrhaging. We are awaiting further reports as to whether or not there may be a definite relationship between his present difficulty and his first complication. Do you feel there may be any possible tie-up or connection between his first complication and this second circumstance.

When additional reports are available we will mail copies of same to you. Should you wish to communicate directly with Dr. Dantzig, please feel perfectly free to do so.

This past week another case of irritation involving a female sewing machine operator came to our attention. She is now under Dr. Dantzig's care, and if he finds any traceable connection to her work on the "Sealtuft" material with the two aforementioned cases we will advise you in detail.

We are hopeful there will be no more trouble, but if there is, I feel the matter should be given very careful consideration by all parties concerned.

I appreciate and thank you for the consideration given to our problem by you and Dr. Nelson.

With kind regards, I am

Sincely yours,

L. D. Hokerk
L. D. Hokerk
President

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LOUIS DANTZIG, M. D.
3 Hopper Street
Utica, N. Y.

Practice Limited to Skin Diseases

Jan. 9, 1951

Mr. Martin-Mgr.
Kerk Guild
Whitesboro, N.Y.

Re: Anthony Paparella
John Ferris

Dear Mr. Martin:

Mr. Nelson of the Utica Mutual has requested me to inform you of the patch test findings on the above named employees who are under my care for occupational dermatitis. I am happy to oblige.

Mr. Paparella is the worse of the two, as you probably know, and this can be attributed to the autosensitization to the original dermatitis of the hands. He was patch tested with the following items: cup grease, motor oil, glue, oiled rag, sealtuft rubberized green material, sealtuft film material, sealtuft brown rubberized material, and sealtuft red rubberized material. The patient was found positive to the cup grease and the red sealtuft rubberized material.

Mr. Ferris was patch tested with the following; condom, yellow plastic material, plastic film with printing, baby pink quilted plastic, wine vynal film, red sonnet quilted plastic, blue flair quilted plastic, black flair quilted plastic, sealtuft antique red quilted plastic, green sealtuft antique plastic, brown antique quilted plastic, chartrow antique quilted plastic. This patient was found positive to the plastic film with printing, the wine vynal film and the red sonnet quilted plastic.

The above positive findings indicate the presence of a substance of an irritant nature or of a sensitizing capacity. This can be investigated further by learning the exact chemicals used in the manufacture of the material. If the manufacturer will supply samples of these compounds for patch testing, I will use them on the above named employee patients with the view of running the offending allergen down. This, of course, would be done with the full knowledge and permission of patients. In this way, a more careful and exact analysis of the problem can be made. This in turn should guide the manufacturer in making such changes in the manufacture of the material as may be deemed advisable. If by chance these patch tests do not reveal any reaction, it may indicate a further search for the source of the offending allergens. I mention this just to enlighten you on the thoughts that go thru a Dermatologist's mind. Please feel free to contact me again if need be.

Yours truly,

Louis Dantzig, M. D.

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