

FILE NAME: Raybestos-Manhattan (RBM)

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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Letter to Mr. Stover, Regarding Asbestos & Asbestosis

Bridgeport, Conn.
December 10, 1936

Mr. C. J. Stover,
16th Floor Inquirer Building,
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Mr. Stover:

I thank you for your letter of the 9th, enclosing clipping from the Charlotte, North Carolina News.

This is rather interesting, but not unexpected. There is no question but what these cases will have to be tried out in court, and there is no doubt in my mind that many of them will be dismissed, as there are so many that a great number of them must be a rank injustice. At the same time, we are facing the fact that asbestos dust does leave a deposit on the lungs, but we do not know whether asbestos dust, which they call Asbestosis, creates Tuberculosis.

I think we also know that by changing a man's occupation, Asbestosis is not dangerous. The only way we can demonstrate this is by having a long time medical investigation, and am very glad to say at the last meeting of the Association, it was decided to have the Suranac Laboratories carry on a series of experiments with guinea pigs and rabbits, to find out what the effect of dust is on these animals, and translate it to the human system.

These experiments will start between now and January first, and continue for about three years, and by that time, the medical profession, as well as ourselves, should know something about the effects of asbestos dust. Personally, from what little we have seen, we do not believe it is as serious as some of the attorneys are attempting to make it.

As you know, we have tubercularly inclined people in all industries, and also have them outside of the industry, and they get Tuberculosis no matter what you do. Of course, if they happen to work in the industry, they claim to have contracted it through the dust exposure in that factory, and they have a good many names for it, such as Silicosis, Pneumoconiosis, etc.

The invitation to visit Charleston is still open to you, but I believe inside of less than two or three months, we shall be able to show practically the same results at Mannheim, so if at any time you do want to visit Mannheim Card Room, I shall be very glad to arrange it for you. I think you will really be surprised at what can be done in the way of dust control.

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Mr. C. J. Stover.

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With best wishes for the holiday season,

Very truly yours,

SS-G.

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