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August 20, 1937

Dr. Leroy W. Gardner, Director,
Saranac Laboratory,
7 Church Street,
Saranac Lake, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Gardner:

I have read carefully your letter of August 16 and the attached correspondence. While I am in sympathy with your reactions to Dr. Hats' paper and can appreciate the attitude of Dauchle and Sayers, I think it would be a great mistake to approach the A.M.A. with the idea of postponing or blocking the publication of Hats' paper.

Dr. Hats is a reputable physician in very good standing. He presents in this paper conclusions based upon the clinical study of his patients and he is entitled to do this the same as anyone else. If his conclusions are faulty, based upon insufficient evidence or resulting from the old fallacy of adding up 2 and 2 and getting 14, then the proper thing to do is for those who differ with him to come back at him through the Journal. I think you will agree with me that it would be highly undesirable for any special interests to block the publication of bona fide articles on the basis that the objector thought that they were wrong or untimely. If the writer has gone off at half cock, then he lets himself open to attack and if the objection can be successfully maintained, everybody is better off.

Incidentally, the whole thing has been published by Hats in the Military Surgeon for August, which makes it all the more certain that it will not be published in the A.M.A. and at the same time leaves you and Sanders free to open the heavy artillery on the article.

What's the dope on California?

Best regards.

Sincerely yours,

A. J. Lanza, M.D.
Assistant Medical Director

...y to Dr. Sayers

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METROPOLITAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

FREDERICK H. ECKER, *Chairman of the Board*
LEROY A. LINCOLN, *President*

NEW YORK CITY

ANTHONY J. LANZA, M.D.
Assistant Medical Director

December 13, 1937

Mr. Manfred Bowditch, Director,
Division of Occupational Hygiene,
23 Joy Street,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Manfred:

A recent number of the Public Health Reports had a survey of an asbestos plant made by Bloomfield and one of his staff. They state that everything considered they think five million particles is a pretty fair threshold limit for the asbestos industry and I agree with them.

I do not know what to say about Mr. Dewey's opinion and I cannot imagine upon what the opinion is based. Of course, the asbestos people in Canada have advanced that idea for some time as an explanation of why asbestos seems to be more clinically severe in England than in this country but I have always had the feeling that their argument was motivated by self-interest rather than to make a scientific contribution. I have had the feeling for some time that asbestosis is pretty much of a mare's nest anyway. I do not doubt that asbestos dust in sufficient quantity will cause a pulmonary fibrosis. I am not sure that asbestosis alone will produce disability or death. I think that in the reported cases of fatal asbestosis they have put the cart before the horse - that is to say, these individuals have died of heart disease and because they worked in an asbestos plant and had some pulmonary fibrosis, their deaths were charged to asbestosis. In the complicated cases, death was due to tuberculosis. Tuberculosis and heart disease are the two leading causes of death among industrial workers and it is to be expected that the asbestos workers would have their quota. However, this is just an opinion of mine.

I am engaged now in running down all our death claims from asbestosis. Some time in January or February, I want to go up to Boston because in this series which we have, the only post-mortems were those done in Boston by Dr. Timothy Leary and, incidentally, I may use your good offices to get an introduction to Dr. Leary as I want to discuss these cases with him.

Best regards.

Sincerely yours,

A. J. Lanza, M.D.
Assistant Medical Director