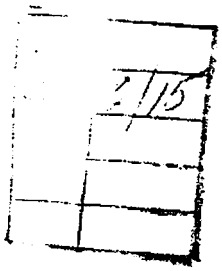
FILE NAME: Johns-Manville (JMA)

DATE: 1965

DOC#: JMA196

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Hannon, JWG, Correspondence



February 10, 1965

To: Dr. Paul Cartier
Dr. Ross K. Childerhose
Dr. David T. Dubow
Dr. G. [illegible] H. Schepers
Dr. Reginald H. Smart
Dr. Roy E. Whitehead

From: J. W. G. Nammon, M. D., Chairman
Section on the Nature and Prevalence of
Occupational Diseases of the Chest
628 Washington Trust Building
Washington, Pennsylvania 15301

Re: Asbestosis Report

Gentlemen:

In the Archives of Environmental Health of the AMA, Volume 10, Number 1, January 1965 there appeared an article on Asbestosis and Lung Cancer by W. Jones Williams, M. D., Department of Pathology, Welsh National School of Medicine, Cardiff, Wales.

Dr. Williams appears to be somewhat critical of our Asbestosis Report which he states suggests that "the incidence of carcinoma of the lung and pleura is not enhanced in North American cases of asbestosis". On page 109, third paragraph of our Asbestosis Report we state that the "enhanced prevalence of pulmonary neoplasia in some asbestos industries or in some locations, does not appear to apply for the chrysotile industry in North America. This comment applies both with respect to intrapulmonary new growths and to pleural mesothelioma."

We were specific in limiting our comments regarding the incidence of neoplasia to the chrysotile industry and although crocidolite and amosite types of asbestos which are mined in South Africa are also used in this country. Dr. Williams refers to 17 reprints in his references at the end of the article and we have reason to believe that there may be duplication of cases in some of the reports.

I believe we should prepare an article in answer to Dr. Williams and I would appreciate your comments both as to the misquote and to the references and if you have any additional information would you please write in duplicate, sending a copy to me and to Dr. G. [illegible] H. Schepers, 9011 Spring Hill Lane, Chevy Chase, Maryland 20015?

February 10, 1965

To: Co-Authors of the Report on Asbestosis (continued)

After your comments have been received a report will be written, sent to all of the Co-Authors of the Asbestosis Report for approval and then submitted to Dr. Mountain of the College for approval and publication.

I am enclosing a copy of our Asbestosis Report and a photostat of Dr. Gilliams paper.

Sincerely yours,

J. G. G. Haughn, M. D.

JGGH/mm
Encl.

Thetford Industrial Clinic

Thetford Mines, Que.

February 18, 1965

Dr. J.W.G. Hannon, Chairman
Section of the Nature and Prevalence of
Occupational Diseases of the Chest
628 Washington Trust Building,
Washington, Pennsylvania 15301

Re: Asbestosis Report

Dear Dr. Hannon,

This question of a possible relationship between Lung Cancer and the Asbestos Factors remains in my mind as in the mind of many others more and more confused.

I am not qualified and I am not ready to make a definite statement and I do not think either that the data available on more than 8,200 asbestos workers seen at the Thetford Clinic since 1945 have been studied at their full value.

In a few months I will be in a position to know the total number of confirmed primary lung cancer in relation to the total number of employees to the total number of autopsies among those employees and also according to age groups and to the intensity of dust exposure.

Moreover following the New York Conference, it is likely that the Canadian National Research Council and the Department of Epidemiology of McGill University are going to realise an epidemiological study among the asbestos workers of the Province of Quebec.

So far the incidence of Cancer of the lung among the asbestos workers of the Thetford district is higher than the incidence of the whole of Quebec, higher also than the incidence of many other counties of the Province but lower than the incidence

(cont'd)

observed in the City of Montreal and much lower than the incidence found among the veterans of the Canadian Army. One problem for the statisticians consulted is to find a sound control group submitted to the same medical investigation and also with the same autopsy rate.

It has seemed obvious to the statisticians that a comparable autopsy rate is of first importance if we want to make a comparative study.

I would be pleased to try to answer more precisely to any questions you may wish to address to me but I realize that this question is very controversial and a difficult one.

Sincerely yours,

P. Cartier

PC/JS

Paul Cartier, M.D.

c.c. to Dr. G.W.H. Schepers.

WILLIAM J. L. McCULLOUGH, M. D.
CLARENCE J. McCULLOUGH, M. D.
JOHN W. G. HANNON, M. D.

625-635 WASHINGTON TRUST BUILDING
WASHINGTON, PENNSYLVANIA

February 26, 1965

KWS
CLS

Dr. Kenneth W. Smith
Medical Director
Johns-Manville Corporation
22 East 40th Street
New York 16, New York

Dear Ken:

Enclosed you will find a copy of a letter from Paul Cartier regarding the Asbestos Report.

I believe Paul's reaction is very good and points out the difficulty of getting a true statistical analysis of the problem.

Both Skip and I would appreciate any comments you may make as I firmly believe we must answer the paper of Jones Williams.

Best regards.

Sincerely yours,

J. W. G. Hannon, M. D.

JWGH/mm
Encl.