

FILE NAME: Metropolitan Life (ML)

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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Dr. Lanza Correspondence RE US Public Health Service Silicosis Standard among Granite Workers with Threshold of Safety

Date: 2/13/34

Title: Letter

Author: Lanza

Receiver: Thomas, J.F.

Comments:

"The United States Public Health Service set up a standard in a bulletin dealing with silicosis among the granite workers in Barre of ten million particles per cubic foot as the threshold of safety. This standard referred specifically to that one industry and cannot be construed as to mean that five million particles would be the threshold if the dust contained 70% of free silica instead of 35% which was the case at Barre as I remember it."

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PRODUCED S/C/M/Ms

February 13, 1934

John F. Thomas, Esq.,
803 Technical Building,
Rochester, New York.

Dear Mr. Thomas:

I enclose a reprint of an article which has just been published. As far as I know, this is all the statistical information that is available with respect to silicosis. You will appreciate from reading the paragraphs of this reprint how difficult, if not impossible, it is to get specific figures for any one industry such as the pottery industry. I think the foregoing takes care of questions 1 and 2 on page 2 of your letter.

With respect to question 3, there is little to be said. The United States Public Health Service set up a standard in a bulletin dealing with silicosis among the granite workers in Barre of ten million particles per cubic foot as the threshold of safety. This standard referred specifically to that one industry and cannot be construed as to mean that five million particles would be the threshold if the dust contained 70% of free silica instead of 84% which was the case at Barre as I remember it.

I would refer you to the enclosed reprint dealing with the Etiology of Silicosis, especially the paragraph marked on Page 2.

Trusting the foregoing information may be of some service to you, I am

Sincerely yours,

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

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Sheet # 8 - 8-31-33
Donald E. Comstock.

I fully appreciate your position in this whole matter for I was extremely interested in the progress of scientific work. I believe that the publication of the paper in this form will not detract from its fundamental value to those who are really interested in it from a scientific standpoint.

Incidentally, I recently discovered the lost copy which you first sent me.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

M. D. Harbaugh
M. D. Harbaugh, New York.

C.S.
Dr. A. J. Loomis
Dr. R. E. Sawyer.

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