

REPOSITORY

NLOS Almonds N41 LAB

COLLECTION

CL-Y

BOX No

11331-1

FOLDER

CASTLE Coors 41

April 19, 1954

Dr. Richard G. Burnett
305 Royal Hamilton Avenue
Hemellock 15, T. H.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Dear Dick:

Your two letters reached me today! I stayed home on Friday as we were getting ourselves ready to have a big cocktail party for my sister and brother-in-law on Saturday. The bill for your services to Harry Allen was very promptly okayed and passed on to the Business Office. I am sorry he got into trouble with his back as he has been very much of a hypochondriac over the past year. On the other hand, it may be just as well for him to have something real to think about.

It is very possible that you discussed the subject matter of your other letter with Paul Spain last week end. I am assuming that he was able to stop off long enough to see you. In any event, I have written to him and to Henry Johnson strongly urging that each depicting HAY worker be talked to, either individually or in groups, concerning the effects of the exposure he has received in the hope that this would permit him to avoid the misconceptions which you have encountered. Our boy, Leo Shalin, who is out there now, would do an excellent job of this and it should be readily possible for him to train Bob Felt to carry it on. I am not quite certain in my own mind whether it would be advisable to draw the HAY medical staff into this. Gustaf and Garrett are, in my opinion, quite okay but I cannot feel certain about the quality of those who may be appointed to succeed them. It is my belief that HAY has learned the hard way that they cannot afford to hire incompetent medics.

As to your specific suggestions, I believe that HAY is obligated to tell their workers the actual amount of exposure they have received. Certainly, if a man requests this information he is entitled to get it. I believe that they are now being provided with a statement to the effect that the exposure received, while perhaps constituting a technical overexposure, is not regarded as harmful and should not provide diagnostic and therapeutic X-rays in the future. I have passed on to Spinder your suggestion that lab work, if indicated, should be done before leaving. I also suggested that they cut any and all references to blood counts as these do nothing but confuse the issue in all cases except those of massive overexposure.

I am sure that your talking to these men individually and also through your contacts with the other doctors can be of enormous help to HAY and others in straightening out these misunderstandings. Perhaps it should be a part of your routine to ask these people whether there are any lingering questions

Dr. Richard C. Durant

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in their minds about the exposures they have received. I think it might not be amiss for you to mention this problem to the local H&W officials, tell them of the difficulties which you have encountered and tell them, if you wish, of these suggestions which I have made. If this adds a dollar's worth of time to each of your examinations I am sure it would be money well spent.

The flowers arrived precisely on time and exactly according to specifications. Now all I have to do is to wait for the bill. Your letter made no mention of articles left behind so I assume that I was successful in picking up completely after myself before leaving your house.

My love to the family.

Very sincerely yours,

OFFICE OF DR. THOMAS L. SHIPMAN, M. D.
THOMAS L. SHIPMAN, M. D.
Health Division Leader

TLS/lca

lca - Changes w/ excerpt from Durant's
ltr as marked.