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FROM: Mr. L. J. Davies

TO: Mr. J. K. Shepherd

17th September 1962

Dear Mr. Shepherd,

On Friday 14th September, Professor A. L. Cochrane of the Welsh National School of Medicine and Director of the Medical Research Council's Epidemiological Research Council called to see me at Rhoose.

Prof. Cochrane's main research has been the effect of dust on coal miners. Of late, however, his attention has also been directed to mesothelioma - a tumour in the lining of the lung or pleura. This is a rare complaint and most of the information has so far come from S. Africa, where it seems to be associated with people who have been in contact with asbestos fibre. The fibre seems to form the nucleus of the tumour.


In the course of Prof. Cochrane's random sampling he has come across two cases in this area i.e. Vale of Glamorgan. The one, V. R. John died in April 1961 and was a former draughtsman at Rhoose, although he had been employed as a Beater-man in his early days - 1932-1936. Considerable correspondence has taken place with Mr. Newton on this case. The other person is at present a patient at Sully hospital named Wall. I personally have since gone through our records and find that we did employ a John Wall between October 1936 and May 1937 on stacking crude fibre.

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Professor Cochrane feels that it is important enough to warrant following up although it might well turn out to be a "red herring". He states that in tackling a problem of this nature one must either be completely frank with everyone or maintain complete secrecy. It is the latter which he feels is best at the moment. Consequently, he would like to meet say Mr. Neve or Mr. McCormick to discuss the matter and could visit Trafford Park at their convenience.

I gather what he would like to do is to have access to the names and addresses of people who have been employed by T.A.C. Rhoose and since left our employ. He maintains that he can then

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obtain all the information he wants through his usual channels without anyone being aware of what is going on. His normal research and investigations in the Vale of Glamorgan could completely cloak the true nature of his study.

I shall telephone Prof. Cochrane from my home this evening and inform him we will get in touch with him again after Mr. McCormick returns to work.

I hope you are able to read my scribble but I think you will agree it is better for me to write this in long hand.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) L. J. DAVIES