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Notes Insurance for participants in low pressure tests

Found By Karen Holmes

Dates \_\_\_\_\_

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December 29, 1942

Mr. R. M. Underhill  
Secretary to the Regents  
Administration Building  
Campus

Dear Mr. Underhill:

I am writing to you regarding the problem of insurance for the students and other investigators, not employees of the University, who will be tested in our low pressure chamber during the next year. Our investigations will necessitate ascents in the chamber, low pressure equivalent to altitudes as high as 40,000 feet. In each ascent there will be three of our team of investigators in charge, one on the outside of the chamber, a second observer on the outside of the chamber, and one inside operator who will be either an M. D. or a physiologist. There will always be an M. D. in general charge.

As you have told me, all of the members of our team will be covered by two types of insurance, one the State Workmen's compensation which is automatic because of the fact that our team of investigators are employees of the University, and second, the unusual hazard insurance provided by the OSRD. In our work we will probably be testing a new group of about forty men every month. These men will ascend in the chamber perhaps twice a week during this period of time, and consequently will be undergoing the same hazard as any one of our operators will be undergoing.

Therefore, it seems clear to me that these men should be covered by the same type of insurance as the OSRD's hazard insurance or the Workmen's Compensation, or both. This insurance should protect the students as well as the operators and investigators who are employees of the University or the OSRD. We could submit to you every month or two a list of men who are being tested so that the same policy could be used on many more than the first batch of forty men.

In addition, there will be times when we will take subjects up in the chamber who are not covered and in that case we would like to have available the blanks about which we spoke. You said that in these blanks there would be a clause stating that the subject would not hold the University nor the team of investigators responsible for injury to the health or life of the subjects.

With thanks for your help,

Sincerely,

John H. Lawrence, M. D.

JHL,r

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UNDERHILL