

April 14, 1947

Dr. Kierland
c/o Mayo Clinic
Rochester, Minnesota

Dear Dr. Kierland:

My daughter, Mrs. L. A. McNalley arrived in Rochester today and will seek aid through your department in which I hope she will be successful.

A few years ago my son-in-law, O. W. Maloney, was treated at the hospital, as I recall, for an impacted nerve in the shoulder which required an operation. The same gentleman has been suffering from pemphigus for nearly a year. He has been outside once, and had a relapse from which he is now recovering.

I understand the bad reputation that this disease has and in any illness I always try to ascertain if possible, what may have caused it. One thing that has seemed possible to me, and I should be glad to have your opinion on it, is whether pemphigus in his case, may have been occasioned by the rays from his electric welding plant. He manufactures tanks of various kinds which require electric welding, and while he has no occasion to operate such a machine, he frequently walks through the plant, and his office, perhaps 75, 100, or more feet from this department, which doubtless still might be subject more or less to its rays.

Maloney has led a clean life, is not addicted to bad habits and naturally, we do not know how he came to contract this trouble. I know that my son, Dolph Simons, called your Clinic by telephone from Brainerd last summer regarding the matter, and talked with Dr. O'Leary and stated that Maloney was being treated by Dr. VanCleave who had been a Mayo man.