April 11, 1955

Dr. M. L. Tainter, Director
Sterling-Winthrop Research Institute
Rensselaer, New York

Dear Doctor Tainter:

Doctor Heyroth will be out of the Laboratory for some weeks, and I do not wish to follow him up with various items of correspondence, nor to hold them for his return, unless it is necessary to do so. Accordingly, I am taking the liberty of answering your letter of April 1 to him, since actually the policies of the Laboratory are the issue.

First let me say that we do not split hairs in such matters, nor are we personally or individually defensive in matters concerned with our scientific standing and integrity. Rather we find that we must avoid the very appearance of evil in relation to commercial considerations, since, as you may know, this Laboratory is supported entirely by funds supplied by industrial organizations. These come to us in trouble usually, and much in the manner of patients, but we are thought of, from time to time, as the recipients of their largess. Recently, both Dr. Heyroth and I have had occasion to realize the vulnerability of our position in relation to scurrilous attacks made upon ourselves and the Laboratory by the demagogues and irresponsible elements that appear to flourish in our society in this particular period. We are not unduly concerned, but as I have indicated, we are, as a matter of policy, quite careful of the public position of the Laboratory. This, I believe, will make it clear that we have neither the attitude of the "holier than thou," nor that of the unduly timid.

The point of these remarks is that I see no reason why you should not make suitable use of our data and refer to it as a "personal communication" in a book of the type which you describe. I feel quite certain that Dr. Heyroth will be in agreement with this. I do suggest that you let us see the text as it relates to this, together with such material as will reveal its general character, if it is not too troublesome.

Cordially yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

RAK ef

Dictated but not read.