

March 11, 1940

Dr. L. Y. Dyrenforth
St. Luke's Hospital Association
Jacksonville, Florida

Dear Doctor Dyrenforth:

Thanks very much for your letter of March 5th and for your further response to my questions. I shall be very pleased to have brain tissues for further examination not only because I shall be glad to check our initial results, but also because from time to time, as opportunity affords itself, we have made studies on the distribution of lead in different parts of the brain substance.

I shall be glad to send you a detailed report of our observations when completed. For the present I might best give you merely the results of our analyses on the tissues of Mr. [REDACTED]. The liver, kidney, brain and lung contained the following respective concentrations of lead in milligrams per 100 grams of fixed tissue: 2.00, 0.64, 1.08 and 0.45, these values corresponding in general to those which we have found in corresponding tissues in acute fatal poisoning experimentally induced in animals, and also in acute fatal poisonings in human beings. In several instances among our recorded cases the concentrations of lead in these respective tissues have been higher than these. On the other hand we have had other cases in which the concentrations have been of this order of magnitude. This, therefore, fits in quite clearly with the toxicologic picture of acute fatal lead poisoning.

These figures also coincide with the clinical picture of this man's illness. In this connection you might be interested in the clinical description of tetraethyl lead poisoning, and you might also be interested in the behavior of tetraethyl lead in the animal organism and in the distribution of such lead in the tissues. Accordingly I am sending you a few reprints which may be of interest in this connection.

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I shall be very happy to see you when you come through Cincinnati the first of April. To make certain that you will not miss me, let me warn you that I will not be found at the hospital but at our laboratory, which is at the College of Medicine, Eden Avenue, quite near the Cincinnati General Hospital.

Very truly yours,

RAK:ls

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.

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