COPY

July 23, 1951

Randolph K. Byers, M. D.
Longwood Medical Building
319 Longwood Avenue
Boston 15, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Byers:

Reference: Karin Searles
16 Gordon Avenue
Hyde Park, Massachusetts
Father: Bert Searles

A visit was made to the home of Karin Searles, and Mrs. Searles was interviewed.

It appears that approximately one year ago, at the age of one, little Karin began to chew on furniture about the house. Her favorite objects were her crib, a leg of the kitchen table and the legs of the dining-room chair. For the past few months, she had been eating plaster taken from a hole in the living-room wall. During the past four weeks, she was repeatedly found eating old paint flakes which had peeled off a painted brick wall on the porch.

Mrs. Searles informed me she had brought into the Children's Hospital a leg from the kitchen table and a leg from the dining-room chair for lead analysis of the painted surface. The crib Karin had chewed on was relatively new and not painted. The wood had been stained and then varnished. I have forwarded to Miss Taylor at the Children's Hospital samples of the plaster and of the paint on the porch wall.

Because of my own interest in the porphyrias, I asked a few questions in this vein. The only thing Mrs. Searles could add was that Karin disliked the sun and when placed in the sunlight would always go to a shaded area and remain there. There did not appear to be any history of pink discoloration of the teeth or nails or skin lesions. Mrs. Searles did not give any information regarding the color of Karin's urine.

When you have the time, I would appreciate learning whether any porphyrin studies were carried out during Karin's illness or on the post-mortem tissues.

Sincerely yours,

Clarence C. Maloof, M. D.

CCM:BL
CC: Mr. Bowditch

N22336