

FROM E. F. Moore AT Philadelphia IN REPLY CFB:ES
TO W. M. McEldowney-CTR AT Pittsburgh REFER TO
SUBJECT ALLEGED LEAD POISONING CASE: NORFOLK, VA. TERMINAL
[REDACTED], PIPE FITTER
MAY 18, 1944 DATE 5/29/44

Re the above case, we are very glad to report that [REDACTED] condition has taken a turn for the better and he is now believed to be out of danger. This morning, Dr. Truman G. Schnabel, who is looking after the case while he is confined to the Philadelphia General Hospital, stated that while Walker was still a very sick man he has made progress towards recovery and when considering that a few days ago he was so dangerously ill, everyone seems hopeful that he will survive although he will, no doubt, have several more weeks of convalescence.

Unfortunately, we have not been able to secure the analysis of the blood samples to definitely determine if there is any lead contamination partially responsible for his illness. When [REDACTED] was visited last Friday, he commented on the excessive amount of milk he was required to drink and evidently they are giving the employee a high calcium diet, although we have not been able to have this confirmed by a doctor. There are a number of doctors involved in this affair for the reason that [REDACTED] is, as you know, in the Fever Ward of the Philadelphia General Hospital, which is strictly a charitable institution, and it is very difficult to get any information on his condition other than through Dr. Schnabel whom we have contacted several times or Dr. Rouse, Jr., the Travelers Insurance Company's doctor. However, Dr. Early, an interne in the hospital, is the one who has been following [REDACTED] case very closely, working along with Dr. John J. Reinhold in charge of the Chemical Laboratory and who was supposed to have taken the blood samples and arranged for the lead analysis, which, as previously stated, have not been made available to us.

This morning, in conversation with Dr. Reinhold, we were informed that due to the fact the hospital is very much understaffed, he has been unable to have the blood analysis completed and said that we would probably receive the analysis from Dr. Robert A. Kehoe first, as he was arranging to send Dr. Kehoe blood samples today.

We have explained to Dr. Reinhold our reason for anxiety in the case, particularly so since there may be other employees involved. This was without avail and they will not make an exception in [REDACTED] case and the blood analysis will be taken in the routine order. Of course, since [REDACTED] condition has shown such improvement, it is difficult to press the situation further.

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Dr. George Rouse, Jr. is quite elated over [REDACTED] present condition and stated that he felt we were given a "false alarm" insofar as lead poisoning is concerned, as [REDACTED] condition would seem to be chiefly Pneumonia with a possible heart ailment, which incidentally, Dr. Schnabel confirmed via telephone with the writer this morning.

We did not feel from the beginning that the employee had lead poisoning but having had the exposure and his family physician, Dr. D. S. Seller, informing [REDACTED] wife that she should contact his employer naturally made us somewhat concerned. Dr. Seller later stated that the employee showed symptoms of LEAD-ENCEPHALOPATHY and that was the reason he had had him transferred to the Philadelphia General Hospital for treatment. If he did have such symptoms, they have cleared up very rapidly, as his mind is clear and apparently normal.

At the present time there is nothing further that we can do in the case and when you receive the analysis of the blood samples from Dr. Kehoe, we wish you would advise us because in the event the analysis does not show any lead content, then we do not believe it advisable to go ahead with the examination of the other employees in the Tank Cleaning Crew, as of course, our previous recommendation was on the assumption that Walker had acquired lead poisoning and if he had, felt that it would be advisable to protect the other employees by making sure nothing had gone wrong.

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