

October 21, 1929

Dr. Richard Austin,
Cincinnati General Hospital,
Burnet Avenue,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

Dear Dr. Austin:

In the course of our studies on the occurrence of lead in man and animals I find that it would be of the greatest importance for us to obtain fresh tissues from individuals with no remarkable chronic or acute disease process. This leaves us with almost no opportunity to obtain material from persons other than young or middle aged individuals who died suddenly as result of accident or mechanical injury. The occurrence of death as result of acute disease will almost undoubtedly produce changes in the distribution of lead, thus such cases are of almost no value to our immediate problem.

It occurs to me that you may from time to time have cases at autopsy whose death has come by violence and whose tissues will therefore answer our purpose admirably. If any such cases develop I would be more than appreciative if you would either let us know at the time of the autopsy or save tissues for us for analysis. It would be necessary to take some precautions against contamination with metals, but the ordinary clean glass container (without its rubber ring) would be satisfactory for our purpose. We would like to have good size pieces of entire organs, including the brain, spinal cord if removed, liver, spleen, kidneys, pancreas, suprarenals, adipose tissue, muscle, flat bone such as the rib, and round bones where obtainable without mutilation. In fact, we are interested in the distribution of lead in all of the tissues of the body, so that any tissue capable of being obtained in unmixed form would be highly desirable.

Since the finding of these situations is purely chance, and since even with the best of luck it would take us some time to collect any considerable amount of information, I will be very grateful for any help you can give us. Perhaps it would be desirable for us to supply you with suitable containers, however, I leave that to your discretion.

Sincerely yours,

R.K:EJ