

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
57 MURRAY STREET
PERTH

In replying please quote

DDL/CT

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All communications to be

addressed to the

COMMISSIONER OF

PUBLIC HEALTH

16th October, 1961.

Dr. Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.,
Kettering Laboratory,
Department of Preventive Medicine
and Industrial Health,
College of Medicine,
University of Cincinnati,
Cincinnati,
OHIO. U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Kehoe,

I have just finished reading the Harben Lectures, 1960, on The Metabolism of Lead in Man in Health and Disease, as they appeared in the Journal of the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene.

In my opinion, they contribute a major advance to our more certain knowledge of the metabolism of lead. In addition, I have found the substance of the lectures extremely useful in clarifying the general principles involved in the metabolism of lead. As well as congratulating you and your colleagues on this extremely valuable contribution, I also wish to let you know that I am indeed grateful for the help that it has given me.

One result of your work is that I shall commence to use blood lead estimations on a wider scale. Before doing this I should appreciate your advising me on techniques for making and keeping syringes and needles lead-free. The simpler the technique the better, as it is my intention to interest several institutions e.g. Princess Margaret Hospital for Children and a number of individuals i.e. some of my colleagues, in pursuing this investigation. If it were not practicable for a private practitioner to have his syringes prepared in his own surgery, it could be arranged that syringes be prepared in some central place and dispersed. This, of course, would have disadvantages e.g. delay in obtaining a syringe; but these would not be insurmountable.

Having given you an outline of the problem, I should be grateful if you would advise me on the best method or methods to be undertaken.

Yours faithfully,

D.D. Letham

(D.D. Letham)

PHYSICIAN
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH