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FIFTY FARMINGTON AVENUE
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

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Dr. Robert A. Kehoe
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My dear Dr. Kehoe:

Recently I have been asked to pass judgment on a supposed case of lead poisoning and Mr. Robert Richardson of Madison, Conn., has suggested that I communicate with you regarding certain facts.

This man had a severe anemia in November, 1936, a hemoglobin of 37 % and a red count of 1,712,000. There was so much stippling in the red cells that the examiner suggested the possibility of a toxic agent as the cause of the anemia, the weakness and the severe cramp-like pains which the man experienced. I assume that the patient had plenty of liver and iron, but this was denied by his physician, after which the basophilic aggregation was 1.9.

The stool examination by the Agricultural Experiment Station showed 2 milligrams per kilo of sample. I have written them for their method of determination and what this would mean in terms ~~to them~~ of ash. The urine at this same time contained .67 milligrams of lead per liter. I understand at this time he had no lead line of his gums although his teeth were very dirty. He had no muscular weakness but his associates where he worked had noticed a sudden change in color and pallor over night which suggested an acute blood loss from gastro-intestinal bleeding. The stools were black but I think no examination was made for blood and I interpreted the blackness as due to iron and liver. As a matter of interest will lead in the stools produce enough lead sulfide to make black stools?

The man had worked for the New Method Laundry; the Division of Occupational Diseases of Connecticut State Department of Health in October 1936 had investigated the New Method Laundry where this man worked in the Cleaning and Dyeing Department and they found no evidence of occupational hazard. The man had used some kind of gasoline once a month for five or ten months wiping off the brass parts of the washing machines. *as the only exposure at his work, to lead. His home conditions revealed no lead exposure according to Dr. J. H. French.*
There are two questions which I would like your comment on. First; do you feel that the urine and feces examination with the amounts of lead given above allow a diagnosis of unqualified lead poisoning? Second; if so have you any definite suggestions for further determining the source of lead?

I think the man drank beer in moderation. He had never acknowledged making any alcoholic beverages himself.

I am sorry to bother you and with sincere thanks,

I remain

Cordt

John A. Wentworth