

May 10, 1940

Dr. E. C. Dodds
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The Middlesex Hospital
Medical School
London, W. 1
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Dear Doctor Dodds:

Please accept my thanks for the report of your work made to me through Mr. Bevan recently. I am glad to know that things have been moving along, that the methods which Smith took back with him have worked out satisfactorily, and that some solution of the analytical problem in connection with the manufacturing plant seems to be in the offing.

There is one phase of the experimental work which is of considerable interest to me, and I should like to have anything in the way of detailed reports which will enable me to understand its significance, and to compare your observations with our own. I refer here to your observations on the relationships between lead metabolism and that of calcium and phosphorus. For several years we have been studying the lead metabolism of human subjects with known experimental additions of lead to their oral intake. I am studying the results of these observations in a detailed fashion and I am very anxious to know what are the effects, if any, of variations in the calcium and phosphorus content of the diet over either short or long periods of time. Your data would be of considerable use to me in this connection and I should be very grateful if you could find the time to report to me in some detail on just what you have done and what results have been obtained.

In this connection I think it would be useful if results were reported to me from your laboratory at more or less regular intervals on the lead work. Obviously I shall make no use of the data myself except for my own information, since it is the essence of our arrangement that you are responsible for your own work and for its publication. On the other hand it was also our understanding that I could be of considerable use to you in the direction of some of your activities; or at least in orienting certain phases of them so as not to waste time unduly.

In large measure this same suggestion is pertinent in connection with any work which you may do in connection with the manufacturing activities. We have a large mass of data and our experience should be of the greatest usefulness in the interpretation of the results obtained on these workmen. I should be very glad, of course, to send you our reports on various phases of this problem, but I believe it would be of the greatest practical usefulness both to your laboratory and to the manufacturing enterprises if we were to review your results, comment upon them and make suggestions for the continuation of these observations.

On Bevan's recent trip, we talked over this matter and we came to the conclusion that it would be highly desirable and mutually profitable if we were to coordinate our activities in such a way that I could profit by your observations and you could profit by ours. I am quite in agreement with Bevan that this should be done and I feel somewhat negligent in not having been more active in the past year in maintaining contact with your work. I have been deeply engrossed in our work here which has been quite heavy, indeed, I believe, somewhat too heavy. As a consequence I have had very little time for anything else. Undoubtedly the continuance of the war will exercise a very important deterrent influence upon our present relationships. Nevertheless I believe that we should maintain them as well as possible and be prepared to carry on in a concerted fashion when something approximating normal life returns again to your part of the country

I can not convey to you my unhappiness over the outbreak and the continuance of this war, and, therefore, I shall not try to do so. I do, however, wish to convey to you my very best wishes, my hope that you will not be too badly disturbed and that we in common with other civilized people may soon be able to return to undisturbed and comfortable relationships.

Sincerely yours,

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Robert A. Kehoe, M D.

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