

Lead

NATIONAL LEAD COMPANY

Lead

III BROADWAY

EDWARD J. CORNISH
PRESIDENT

NEW YORK

March 29, 1923.

Edsall

Dr. David L. Edsall
School of Public Health
Harvard University
Boston, 17, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Edsall:

I have received your letter of the 27th, enclosing the reports upon the investigation of lead poisoning, September 1, 1921, to March 1, 1923.

I quite agree that it is already being demonstrated that scientific investigation of lead poisoning, even though commenced for the sole purpose of acquiring knowledge, is likely to result in great advantage to everyone whose business brings him into contact with lead. The statement that lead absorbed through the lungs is more injurious and dangerous than lead absorbed through the stomach is very interesting. We seem to have established the fact by experience, that if we keep lead out of the mouth and nose of our employees we will be free from lead poisoning -- even though their hands are continually in contact with lead (both dry and wet) during working hours. We have long realized the necessity of enforcing the rule of wearing respirators in dusty places, as well as washing the hands and face carefully before eating.

We have been influential in procuring a sandpaper which will not be unduly expensive and can be used wet. We hope that it will be adopted by painters generally at an early date. Your finding that lead is relatively more dangerous when absorbed through the lungs will assist us in inducing painters to adopt wet sandpapering.

I think that our Dr. Thompson will visit you in a few days. We look upon him as the best equipped of all in our service to understand and appreciate the scientific work you are doing, and to make suggestions to us of the many ways we can make your work valuable -- not only to manufacturers of lead products, but also to the consumers thereof.

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Sincerely yours,

E. J. Cornish
President.