

April 5, 1921.

Sir William R. Smith, F. R. S. Ed.,
Royal Institute of Public Health,
37 Russell Square,
London, W. C. 1., England.

My dear Sir William:

Your letter of March 18 has just come, and I feel that I should let you know further of the unforeseen circumstances which have arisen in our laboratory. We have become involved in a very large investigation of lead poisoning, financed liberally by an association of lead producers in this country. It is regarded by Dr. Edsall and myself as the first practical test of the scheme we have had in mind in organizing the work in industrial hygiene here at Harvard. We have felt that our organization should be ready to meet just such requests as this, and are consequently compelled to see that this first one is carried through in as thorough and satisfactory a manner as can be attained. The organization and general executive control of this work upon lead naturally falls upon me, and my sense of duty to the University and to the division of Industrial Hygiene has made it absolutely necessary for me to relinquish my great desire to go to England next year.

I trust that at some future date we shall have reached a condition of stability here which will enable me to follow my inclination, and I hope that you will understand my deep regret in failing you for next year.

Very sincerely yours,