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March 2, 1943

Dr. Robert A. Kehoe
College of Medicine
Eden Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Dr. Kehoe:

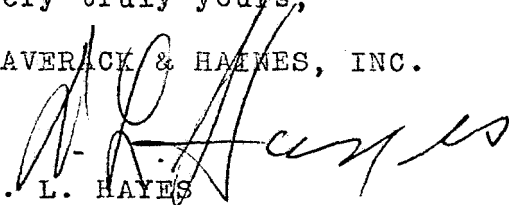
I have your letter of February 24, 1943. When I was in New York City last week I was unable to do anything with regard to the lead situation with The State Insurance Fund. After reading your letter of the 24th it is probably just as well that I did not. On account of our change in administration, there undoubtedly will be a drastic shake up in Doctors and Referees, and I think I will hold up this matter until there is a new Medical Director appointed, which should be very shortly.

In the meantime, however, it might interest you to know that in one of our very large hospitals in a city nearby, I requested that there be a test made for lead in the urine by using the Photometric Dithizone Method, and their Laboratory Department said they had never heard of such a test; so you can see that there will have to be considerable education among the hospitals and medical men themselves, as to the correct tests and the method of making them, in order to diagnose lead poisoning.

As soon as I have something more concrete I shall contact you. With kindest regards, beg to remain

Very truly yours,

LAVERACK & HAINES, INC.


D. L. HAYES
Secretary

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February 24, 1943

Mr. D. L. Hayes,
Laverack and Haines, Incorporated,
White Building,
Buffalo, New York.

Dear Mr. Hayes:

I quite agree with you that the problem of the proper handling of claims for lead poisoning is a rather serious one under present conditions. As a physician and as chairman of the committee of the American Public Health Association on this subject, I am deeply interested in knowing what can be done to clarify this situation. Accordingly, if I could be of any service to representatives of the state of New York, who have to do with the handling of this work, I should be glad to do so. Some standardization of the laboratory procedures is highly advisable, but more importantly, a sensible interpretation of the results should be made on the basis of a sound understanding of the problems at issue. You need not quote me, since it would not produce a very good impression among my medical colleagues, but the fact remains that it will not be possible to provide a proper understanding of this problem to practicing physicians. Therefore, our only hope is to have the matter well understood by the referees and the physicians representing the State insurance fund. I should regard it as a great privilege to be able to be of some help in bringing this about.

Very truly yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

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