

September 25, 1930

Herr Dr. Karl Würth,
Institute for the Technical Investigation
of Painters' Materials,
Schlebusch,
Mulheimerstr. 119,
Germany.

Dear Doctor Würth:

Allow me to thank you for the reprint of your article which you so kindly sent me recently.

At the present time our Laboratory is not doing work on the lead paint problem directly. However, we have experienced a number of situations in which the lead paint problem has been seen to be of importance. We have had an opportunity to study a number of children, some of whom have sucked the paint from toys and beds and similar objects inside the house. We have also had occasion to analyze the dust in city streets and on the ledges of buildings for its lead content. We have found moderate quantities of lead in dusts at almost any point from which we choose to select it. Presumably a large portion of this lead dust is the result of crumbling of paint used on the exterior of buildings, vehicles, etc. We are not in position to state the significance of this matter, and we are not at all certain that it has any bearing upon the public health. We have found that the normal individual, both in industry and out of it, is absorbing lead regularly and is excreting some quantity regularly in both the faeces and urine. It is our opinion that this is the result of minute food contamination. However, this is not a proven point, and we shall find it necessary to investigate further. I am sending you two reprints which contain some information along these lines.

In the matter of the attitude of the American Government on the use of lead paints, I am sure you will find that much has been said but that nothing has been done. So far as I know there are at present no legal restrictions upon the use of lead paints either internally or externally in houses in the United States, nor do I know of any publications which discuss the question thoroughly or which state the attitude of the Government. I think it can be fairly said that the Public Health authorities in the United States are not convinced that there is adequate evidence upon which to base legal action for the discontinuance of the use of lead paints.

Very cordially yours,

RAK:EJ

VE 00608

Institute for the Technical Investigation
of Painters' Materials

Schlebusch,
Wilheimerstr. 119
Sept. 16, 1930

Honored Herr Professor!

Unfortunately I have not had an opportunity until now to send you the reprint which you requested. I do not have a reprint from the "Chem. Tech. Rundschau", but the article in it was simply an extract from the work which I am sending you in the two enclosed reprints. I am including another reprint which I think may be interesting to you.

I should be very grateful to you if you would inform me whether in your institute you are doing any special work with the lead paint question. It would be very valuable for me to know what stand the American government takes toward the use of lead paints. If you know of any short publication on this subject, will you kindly send me the exact title, so that I can get the publication. I should particularly like a short presentation of the subject such as a reprint of a lecture or something of that nature.

Yours very truly,

K. Wirth

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MAL- UND ANSTRICHTECHNISCHE VERSUCHSANSTALT

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SCHLEBUSCH, DEN ~~11.11.1917~~
MOLHEIMERSTR. 110
HALTESTELLE v. AUTOBUS u. STRASSENBAHN KÖLN-SCHLEBUSCH

Herrn Professor Robt. T. Schmitt
Laborator, of applied Physiology
College of Medicine

Eden and Bethesda Avenue

Baltimore, Md.

Gehr geehrter Herr Professor:

Isther komme ich erst heute dazu, Ihnen den ge-
wünschten Sonderdruck zu senden. Einen Abdruck aus der "Chem.-
Techn. Rundschau" habe ich nicht; das war lediglich eine Aus-
zug aus dieser Arbeit, die ich Ihnen infolgedessen in zwei
Exemplaren zugehen lasse. Ausserdem würde ich Ihnen noch
einen Sonderdruck, von dem ich annehme, dass Sie dafür Inter-
esse haben.

Ich wäre Ihnen dankbar, wenn Sie mir mitteilen wür-
den, ob Sie in Ihrem Institut speziell über die Bleifarbenfre-
ge arbeiten. Es wäre mir sehr wertvoll zu wissen, wie sich
die amerikanischen Behörden zur Verwendung der Bleifarben
stellen. Sollte es eine kleine Veröffentlichung darüber geben,
so würde ich Sie, mir den Namen mitteilen, um mir die
Schrift entl. beschaffen zu können. Besonders erwünscht wäre
mir eine kurze Darstellung, Abdruck eines Vortrags oder der-
gleichen.

Mit vorzüglicher Hochachtung

Anlagen separat

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