

May 19, 1933

Mr. Lawrence T. Fairhall
Harvard University
School of Public Health
55 Van Dyke Street
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Fairhall:

Allow to thank you again for your invitation to come to your laboratory at a later date. I am afraid, however, that it will be impossible for some to come, and I wish to repeat my invitation for you to come here. I believe that the whole matter would be greatly facilitated by your doing this since we are carrying on a considerable volume of work of this type at present, and since you will therefore be able to see what you will on the minutest details of our work.

My plans at present are such that I do not see how I can absent myself from the laboratory. I shall be teaching until well into the middle of June, after which time, I have some three or four engagements out of town which I can not avoid. I have made plans to begin my vacation on or about July 1st, and since these involve the plans of a number of other people as well as my own, I can not conveniently modify them. It would be quite convenient for us to have you here any time during the next six weeks, and I shall be very glad to have you come.

With regard to your use of acetic acid, I must confess that my conclusion that you employed 2 c.c. basic acetic acid in excess was arrived at somewhat indirectly. Your description of your method has not included a statement as to the precise amount of acid employed, while your data regarded in checking the method has referred repeatedly to the use of such amounts. I naturally inferred that this represented your customary procedure. I should like also to remark that it is only when the amounts of lead in the samples are less than half a milligram that substantially quantitative precipitation fails to occur. Amounts above this are usually precipitated quantitatively even in the presence of an acidity represented by 2 c.c. of glacial acetic acid in excess. When the amounts are as low as one tenth of a milligram, there is usually not the slightest evidence of turbidity or of any precipitation at this acid