

November 18, 1935

Dr. Wm. C. Compton
American Building
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Dr. Compton:

My examination of Mr. [REDACTED] Friday showed that he had improved somewhat since his last examination. He has less ataxia and is somewhat stronger. I found no evidence of localizing signs on which to base a diagnosis but as I indicated in my telephone conversation, I think it would be wise to request the authorization of an ophthalmologic consultation and possibly, also, a neurologic consultation. Accordingly I have written to Dr. Hayhurst as per enclosed copy.

I hope this man continues to improve but I am skeptical. In any case I would like very much to see him again and have asked him to get in touch with us either directly or through you whenever he returns to the city. I have also given him sample containers for the collection of two urine samples in order to see whether there is any increase in his lead output after the use of calcium therapy.

Very truly yours,

RAK:ls

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.

November 18, 1935

Dr. E. R. Hayhurst
Consultant, Industrial Hygiene
State of Ohio Department of Health
Columbus, Ohio

Dear Dr. Hayhurst:

Allow me to thank you for your courtesy in recommending to Dr. Compton that he give me a chance to see his patient Mr. [REDACTED] whose illness he reported to you some time ago from the Globe Union Battery Company.

Both Dr. Machle and I have seen and examined this man and so far as we are concerned, the diagnosis is by no means certain. I have looked into the factory conditions and I can see no good reason why this man should have developed such an unusual type of lead poisoning. Other men associated with him in the same work have been symptom free. The absence of significant blood changes and our complete failure to find significant amounts of lead in his blood or his excreta after repeated examinations, makes me doubt very much the influence of lead in his present condition. If this man has lead poisoning, he is the first case we have ever seen with active symptoms without definite analytical evidence of increased lead absorption. On physical examination the only signs presenting themselves are evidences of brain involvement. Acute central nervous system lead poisoning is almost inconceivable unless there was some extremely unusual factor of susceptibility. Consequently I suspect that the man's condition is due to some cerebral involvement in the nature of either infection of some type, or tumor. We are keeping him under observation and I feel rather strongly that he should have a further examination at the hands of an ophthalmologist and a neurologist. The latter may possibly find something which neither Machle or myself have been able to discover. Accordingly I have recommended to Dr. Compton that he request the authorization of these consultative measures.

With kindest personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

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Robert A. Cohen, M.D.