

January 22, 1945

Dr. Felix Warner
Lead Industries Association
420 Lexington Avenue
New York 17, New York

My dear Felix:

I have just gone over the letters you sent to me about David Mooney, the child from Abington, Pennsylvania.

There were several things in the case which are not right. In the first place, the only lead exposure you mention was three weeks before he got sick. Then he has a very low red blood count for lead poisoning and a white blood count of 20,000 which, of course, is elevated and this is very rare indeed in an uncomplicated lead poisoning. He had a fever also, and died with a very high one. These things imply an infection, not lead poisoning. Also, twitching and hemorrhage are not characteristic of lead poisoning.

Therefore, I would not consider it a clear cut case although, of course, the bones and the paralysis fit in with a possible diagnosis of lead poisoning. Still I am suspicious of the fact that this child died of an infection, just barely possibly of a meningococcus.

Yours,

Joseph C. Aub, M.D.

JCA:SCN

N 16053