

CENTER FOR THE BIOLOGY OF NATURAL SYSTEMS

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI 63130

July 23, 1969

Dr. Robert A. Kehoe
Kettering Laboratory
College of Medicine
University of Cincinnati
Cincinnati, Ohio 45219

Dear Dr. Kehoe:

Thank you very much for the complimentary copy of the Harben Lectures sent in reply to Miss Webb's letter. It has been of tremendous help to her work in our program. However, Miss Webb who is a graduate student will be returning to school in the fall, therefore I am writing in reply to your interest in our lead poisoning study.

In your letter you inquired as to the aspect of lead poisoning in which we were interested. Our present interest centers around lead poisoning in children in the St. Louis area. We wish to lend assistance to neighborhood organizations and relevant agencies interested in the detection, treatment, and prevention of lead poisoning in ghetto areas. However, we eventually hope to start research in determining the health effects of exposure to low concentrations of lead.

It is our hope to start a screening program using hair as the sample for analysis according to the Kopito method. We would like to continue the research concerning the suitability of hair as a sample for mass screening and the reliability of values obtained in this analysis. We would certainly appreciate any opinions or suggestions you may have towards this end. I met with you briefly in New York at the Air Pollution Control Association Meeting and posed this research possibility to you. However, at that time we were not able to talk in great detail and thus you only indicated the difficulties of this line of research. Therefore, any

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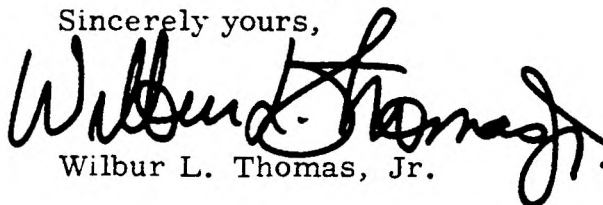
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suggestions you may have concerning this would be most helpful. It may be possible that we could send for you later this fall to speak with our group. Would you be interested?

In a recent communication with Dr. Agnes Lattimer, Chairman of the Chicago Committee Against Lead Poisoning and a pediatrician at Michael Reese Hospital, a lead poison case was brought to my attention which I thought you may be able to help in interpreting. The patient is a four year old female who was admitted to Michael Reese's Mandel Clinic on July 6, 1969. Two blood samples analyzed for lead both gave values of 413 mg % lead. The child had symptoms of vomiting and slight constipation, but no neurologic symptoms were evident. When treated with calcium versinate, the child excreted 2.6 mg of lead in the urine in the first 24 hours. There is a history of pica, however when the child was screened less than a year ago, there was no evidence of elevated blood lead. Dr. Lattimer is interested in why there are no neurologic symptoms with such a high blood level. We would like your opinion on this case.

Again thank you for the lectures.

Sincerely yours,


Wilbur L. Thomas, Jr.