

Lead Industries Association

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MANFRED BOWDITCH
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH AND SAFETY

October 27, 1955

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D., Director
Kettering Laboratory
University of Cincinnati
Eden Avenue
Cincinnati 19, Ohio

Dear Bob:

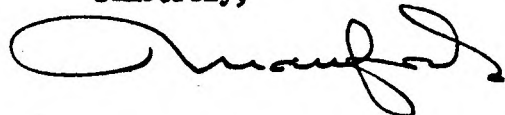
Thank you very much for your delightfully proliferative and most interesting letter of October 21st. The attitudes expressed in your postscripts strike me as wholly reasonable and in no way "snooty," and the only reason that I wrote as I did to Frank was that he had given the cost of publication as the reason for not making the proceedings available in printed form.

While I do think that, carefully edited, much benefit could derive from a judicious distribution of the proceedings, the only paper that I now have a particular eye on is that of Jim Hammond, and I assume that you would have no objection to his letting me have a copy if he himself is willing.

I had not known that your Laboratory does the pathology and toxicology for the Hamilton County Coroner and am simply delighted to hear it.

I have had an amusing time over that request of Lloyd Hamlin's and will tell you something of it when I see you.

Sincerely,



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October 21, 1955

Mr. Manfred Bowditch - (2) - October 21, 1955

It is unfortunate that so little is available, by way of "before and after" photographs of hazardous situation in the lead trades. In general, however, industrial management has been loathe to release such photographs, which industrial hygienists have been too concerned to get the job done to provide recording for their activities.

New York City 17

Dear Manfred:

As you may have suspected from the fact that the infant, David Marler, was in the Children's Hospital in Cincinnati, and that the information concerning the cause of the child's death came out of the Hamilton County Coroner's office, the report of the cause of his death is true. I have no brief for the manner of the newspaper reporting, but obviously the coroner's acts are open to press reporting. (You probably know that this Laboratory does the pathologic and toxicologic work of the Coroner of Hamilton County, via an agreement between the University and the County officials, through certain staff members as deputies to the Coroner, equivalent to the Medical Examinership of certain eastern counties or cities.)

The child died on the day of admission to the Children's Hospital, having had convulsions and other evidences of encephalopathy. There are some doubt about the diagnosis because of the existence of a minor epidemic of viral encephalitis in the vicinity of his home, but the necropsy and analysis of the tissues resolved the doubt. The liver, kidney and vertebra contained, respectively 5.5, 8.0 and 8.0 mg. of lead per 100 grams. (The brain was not sectioned at once, and although its analysis would provide us with another interesting datum, this is not required for purposes of diagnosis.) There is sufficient evidence of an immediately dangerous level of recent absorption, and the negative evidence, otherwise, settles the issue for all practical purposes.

Sincerely yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

RAK ef

P.S. I have a note from Joe Costello of Ethyl Corporation (enclosing your letter and copy of Lloyd Hamlin's request for photographs.) I undertook some time ago to obtain a systematic coverage of typical procedures in the manufacture of tetraethyl lead. The job has not been completed, for a number of reasons, but if the photographs were available, they would be of little value to Hamlin, because of the unusual character of the plants and the exposure.

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P. P. S. Frank Princi has shown me your letter of October 10 on the matter of publishing the proceedings of the course on lead. I do not wish to be graceless in my response to your generous instincts, but two considerations lead me to an unfavorable attitude toward such publication on any other than a small scale, and under any outside sponsorship.

1. I wish to consider the material that comes out of the course quite critically before releasing it. I expect it to be quite satisfactory in the setting of a course which undertakes to cover certain practical matters, but it cannot possibly cover and document the subject otherwise. Therefore, the material provided in printed or mimeographed form should, I think, be limited strictly to the persons who attend the course. We are not attempting, by this means, to reach a larger audience.

2. Because of the direct origin of the discussions in a post-graduate course of this school, responsibility for it should be confined strictly to the University of Cincinnati. This is not being "snooty" vis a vis your organization or industry or any other organization. Rather it is my policy to have the University shoulder its own responsibilities. As a part of that policy, I believe that these courses should pay their own way, including the expense of providing the textual materials that go along with them.

R. A. K.

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