

December 26, 1946

Mr. Philip Drinker,
Department of Industrial Hygiene,
Harvard University School of Public Health,
55 Shattuck Street,
Boston 15, Massachusetts.

Dear Phil:

I have just received a request for information from Glasgow, on the subject of our experience in this country in the avoidance of undue lead exposure in cutting up ships with oxy-acetylene torches. This problem is being faced with some anxiety in Scotland and England in view of the bad record following some of the work in the last war. I have no doubt that a similar problem is being faced in the United States, and I should suppose that your advice would be sought in connection with it. In any case, there must be a rather serious problem despite the tendency to use much less paint than was previously the case, and since you have access, I should think, to people who will be very close to this problem, it is one which seems very well worth some consideration. There are a number of possibilities for the reduction, or possibly for the avoidance of exposure, and while I imagine that these have been considered, it so often happens that things move rapidly in this country without taking account of the consequences, ^{that} I am impelled to make inquiry. In addition, if there is any useful information concerning procedure, which I could pass on to our British friends, I should be very glad to have it. Therefore, anything you know about this will be very useful information to me, and if you are not directly informed, perhaps you can tell me who to get in touch with.

Sincerely yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

RAK ef

KE 0015234