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E. W. FASIG
GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT

January 23, 1942.

Dr. Robert Kehoe,
Kettering Laboratory of Applied Physiology,
University of Cincinnati,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

Dear Dr. Kehoe:

The following quotation is taken from the January issue of "THE SAFE FOREMAN":

"Think of freshly applied paint on a wall giving off fumes. This may contain lead and in the fumes some of the lead is traveling through the air. Without ventilation to keep the air fresh the lead can reach the lungs and thus settle in the body."

I wrote to R. M. Porter the editor of the publication in which I questioned the statement that fumes from paint will contain lead even though the paint itself contains relatively high concentrations of lead pigment.

In a letter from Mr. Porter today he stated that he took the matter up with a chemist by the name of H. C. Lassen. Mr. Lassen assured him that "recent tests have shown that people sleeping in a room freshly painted with paint which contains lead will have some lead in their bodies. He says the amount is enough to measure."

The question of whether or not lead may be found in fumes from drying paint becomes quite an important one to us. I need not call your attention to the errors that are made in the diagnosing of lead poisoning because of the unfamiliarity of many doctors to the true facts. If you will, I should like for you to inform me whether or not Mr. Lassen's statement is true.

An experiment to prove this point would certainly have to be carried on by an individual who is familiar with details of technical research. I certainly would not accept as final conclusions of this kind from most doctors of medicine and ordinary chemists. I still doubt the statement that the fumes contain lead compounds.

Your information on this will be very much appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

THE LOWE BROTHERS COMPANY

E. W. Fasig
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