

March 9, 1937

Dr. Frederick L. Hoffman
Cancer Research Laboratory
133 South 36th Street
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Doctor Hoffman:

At the request of Dr. Bristol and Dr. McConnell I have consented, somewhat reluctantly, to act as Chairman of the Committee on Lead Poisoning of the American Public Health Association for the current year. My reluctance was occasioned not so much by my unwillingness to work as by a certain doubt as to what should be accomplished by such a Committee. I need not stress the point that I have been very much interested in the subject of lead poisoning from both a clinical and an experimental point of view, but it is my feeling that what is needed in the field is more experimental work along certain lines. My own interests prompt me to carry on experimental work in those phases of the matter which seem to me to be of the most practical importance. However, aside from certain matters which might be regarded as controversial and, therefore, scarcely amenable to Committee action, it seems to me that current knowledge is considerably ahead of current practice. It may well be that the present Committee would not regard the report of some years ago as the last word on this subject. I confess that there are certain phases of the report that are not altogether satisfactory. Be this as it may, I am very much more impressed by the value of published experimental work than I am by the preparation of reports, although I am entirely willing to spend some time and trouble in Committee work if there is anything to be accomplished.

The purpose of this letter is to find out the reaction of all members of the Committee as to what we may hope to accomplish, and as to what efforts we might most logically make during the present year. I should appreciate it very much if you would give some thought to the matter and if you would let me have your suggestions at an early date. I am quite sure we are all convinced that

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the incidence of lead poisoning, in industry particularly, is unnecessarily high. The practical question which arises in my mind, therefore, is what can be done about it by our Committee and by the American Public Health Association.

Sincerely yours,

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Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.