

September 23, 1954

Mr. Charles W. Hancock
912 Broadway
Bayonne, New Jersey

Dear Mr. Hancock:

The sheaf of information and correspondence which you have sent me serves to demonstrate clearly your deep concern about your present condition and the circumstances, which, over a period of years, appear to you to have brought it on. Unfortunately, it does not provide me with other evidence by which to appraise the situation. Therefore, I cannot arrive at any conclusions that would be helpful to you, nor does it seem to me that there is anything which I can do by way of investigation, at this time, to answer the question which you and your physicians have asked. Moreover, it is my opinion that any clinical work which my associates in the Clinical Division of this Department might do at my request would leave the problem of the cause of your trouble in precisely the same state as it now is. In other words, as I see it, you and we can find out what your clinical condition is, in fact, but we cannot, after all the lapse of time, find out what causative agent or agents may have been involved. This, I believe, is the crux of your problem, and I am quite frank in saying that proof of the validity of your claim cannot be obtained. To the extent that metallic elements or their compounds were a factor in your present disability, the evidence is gone beyond reclamation. The elements are no longer there, and since they leave no sequel in the form of specific residual pathology, no one can say that they were there or what they may have done.

I must also say that I do not believe that your opinions concerning what happened to you are justified. Therefore, in your mind, despite what I might do or say, I would turn out to be just another of those doctors who, because they do not go along with your ideas, are either ignorant or intent upon deceiving you.

For these reasons, I am returning your file of material to you, and, regretfully withdrawing from the situation. I wish it might be otherwise, since your obvious unhappiness would seem to cry out for relief. I fear that I cannot provide it.

Sincerely yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

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