

January 11, 1935

Dr. Allen F. Murphy
Mason County Health Department
Maysville, Ky.

Dear Dr. Murphy:

Enclosed is a report of the metals present in the specimen of ointment submitted for analysis.

You will notice the absence of mercury and arsenic, and only small amount of lead which probably is an impurity. Likewise the presence of iron, magnesium, manganese, and silicon in fair amounts may indicate they were purposely added, but probably are present in the base of the salve - being present in either a tar or ichthyol which apparently gives it the dark color. The presence of zinc in large quantities indicates that it is the principal metal and it may be zinc oxide, or more likely the chloride which has long been used as a caustic in treating malignancies of the skin.

If a larger specimen could be had or you could learn the base used, it would be very helpful in any quantitative determinations.

Very truly yours,

LJS:IS

L. J. Schradin, M.D.