

March 31, 1937

Dr. Bonnard Teegarden
1 East Ninth Street
New York, New York

Dear Doctor Teegarden:

I am sending you two mailing tubes which I hope will arrive in good condition. The one contains a pyrex test-tube for a sample of blood, together with a sterile needle of special construction for taking the blood sample, the needle being in another tube; the other contains a small bottle for obtaining a sample of urine.

The blood should be drawn directly into the tube by means of the special needle, and without using a syringe. 10 cc will be sufficient. The stopper should be put in tightly and recovered with the filter paper cover in order to prevent any contamination. No anti-coagulant should be used. The needle should be replaced carefully in the receptacle with cotton at either end and around the hub to prevent breakage in transit. (If the needle should be rendered unsterile by chance contact before use, it may be sterilized by gentle flaming, but not by boiling in water).

The urine sample should be voided directly into the small bottle until it is almost filled, in the presence of the examiner. The latter should remove the cover and the stopper and hold it in his hand until the sample has been obtained. (If the stopper is put down on the end which comes in contact with the sample even a minute, the amount of dust will ruin the sample.) The utmost precaution must be taken to avoid the introduction of dust into the sample in the process of collection, and under no circumstances may any intermediate container be used. The paper cover should be replaced after the stopper has been returned to the bottle.

The samples should be mailed to me at the address noted below.

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I trust you will not be disturbed by the detailed instructions I am giving, but it seems best to be explicit. As to the suitability of such samples for diagnostic purposes, I think I should point out that I usually obtain one or more large sample of 2 1/2 to 4 liters of urine when I base conclusions on the urinary results alone, but when I can obtain both blood and urine I am fairly well satisfied to obtain a small sample of urine, the latter having the great advantage that it can be obtained in the manner indicated without undue risk of contamination. If the results on the blood and urine are in agreement they can be accepted as mutually confirmatory and satisfactory. If one is high and the other relatively low or vice versa it is advisable to check the urinary result through the analysis of a large sample. In this instance it seems more convenient to obtain the small sample and if necessary perhaps we can get a larger one later. Such a procedure is usually unnecessary.

It occurs to me that you may be interested in looking over some of the observations which we have made in relation to this problem, and also in the general study of lead absorption and lead excretion, and I am sending you a few reprints under separate cover. The work on normal lead, and on lead excretion in certain trades is to my mind to most interesting part of our study.

Please accept my thanks for your courtesy both on my visit to your office, and also in obtaining the samples for analysis.

Cordially yours,

RAK:vn

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