

October 10, 1947

Dr. Willard Machle
Room 714, Chrysler Building
405 Lexington Avenue
New York 17, New York

Dear Bill:

Thank you for your letter of October 7 as well as the copy of Dr. Steadman's letter which I am returning.

The Alcoa samples are now being analyzed and the results should be available in a few days. I may, however, keep the results until your arrival here unless I hear otherwise from you.

Dr. Steadman's report bears out my contention that the mere possession of a spectrograph and the ability to obtain high sensitivities with pure metallic solutions does not ensure suitable application to biological material. As you are probably aware, the technique of sample preparation described in Steadman's report is faulty and in spite of the high sensitivity claimed -- 0.002 microgram -- it is not possible to detect less than 3.3 micrograms per hundred grams by the procedure described (assuming a 3 gram sample being used).

Since you are familiar with our technique and our results, I leave the question as it stands. I am satisfied that our procedure is the proper one to employ and that we can detect, as I have claimed, concentrations as low as 0.2 microgram per liter of urine and of the order of less than 0.1 microgram per 100 grams of tissue.

I am returning the Alcoa duplicate samples as requested in your letter of October 7.

Cordially yours,

JC:egm

J. Cholak

encl.

cc: Dr. Robert A. Kehoe

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RF 0012358

7 October 1947

Mr. Jacob Cholak
Kettering Laboratory
College of Medicine
University of Cincinnati
Cincinnati 19, Ohio

Dear Jack:

Herewith letter from Steadman, to whom we also sent part of
[REDACTED] tissues. No comment on the letter is necessary from this
[REDACTED] as you will have a few.

This is only copy I have, so please return it after you have
noted.

Am sending under separate cover a series of samples collected
at the Alcoa plant, Garwood, New Jersey. These we took on filter paper
with the exception of the rafter samples. If you have enough material,
I think it would be interesting to analyze the rafter samples from the
magnesium building for Be; since I have a suspicion that Be was used in
the process when it was operating. All of the samples should be run for
lead.

The arrangements for this were discussed with Dr. Kehoe —
the reason the request has been made to have them done at Cincinnati
rather than have Alcoa do them themselves was because the results may
be employed for medico-legal purposes. Cralley will be making a sys-
tematic survey of the plant at a later date for purposes of cleanup.

I should like to tell you again that I thought your paper at
Saranac was most excellent.

See you soon.

Cordially,

W:md
Encl.
Cc: Dr. R. A. Kehoe

Willard Machle, M. D.

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