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TUCKER 2965

OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES
INDUSTRIAL HEALTH

INDUSTRIAL TOXICOLOGY
PLANT SURVEY

November 22, 1955

Mr. Manfred Bowditch
Lead Industries Association
420 Lexington Ave.
New York, N.Y.

Dear Manfred:

The first portion of this letter is serious. After reading the correspondence received from you and others regarding Dr. Giessels I realized that you have been the focus of considerable correspondence over the years dealing with a wide variety of subjects and persons. I know that Dr. Whittaker of Detroit has been commissioned to write a history of industrial medicine but I fear it will lean heavily to surgical care and organizational changes. You could deal with the preventive aspects, hygiene and episodes such as those which arose out of the case of phosphorus, silica, benzol and beryllium.

You could and should start with Lady Alice, then in their turn such as Gardner, Lanza, Sayre, Selby and so on. You recall that Harvey Cushing wrote two volumes on Osler based mostly on Osler's letters to various people. I think this is an idea worthy of your consideration and its fulfillment would further add to the stature of the Bowditch name.

Of course it will take time. You would have to desist spending hours making quart-sized "old fashions," or walking around that old pool table or retelling to Elfriede your life at Harvard.

Now - in a more jocular vein. The brochure received from Dr. Giessels of Houston depicting the A to Z hazards of lead poisoning recalled to me the lecture given to us soldiers on the way to France (World War I, natch). Our Adjutant warned us of the prevalence of lues and advised us to not even pat a cow. And now we find that in the great cow country of Texas the implication that lead is everywhere - actors, embroidery workers, stereotypers (who is'nt), table turners (is that a greater hazard than being under a table?), mixers (Martini? - I'll go for that one), reclamer of rubbers (oh! oh! - that ought to be clarified), chippers (we men are daily exposed to female chipping their teeth at us), braziers (always an environment I love to explore but maybe I have misconstrued his spelling).

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Anyhow, the Lead Industries has been much too conservative in warning the business man of the potential hazards in the great gamut of earning a living. And California better get this chap from the "American Industrial Frontier - the Golden Gulf Coast" to teach the Chamber of Commerce some new and better slogans.

Of course I am only kidding. Dr. Giessels may be the best doctor in the world - and I hope he improves.

Sincerely,

R. T. Johnstone, M.D.

RTJ/rcm
CC: Kehoe
Sterner
Shipman
Hardy

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