



THE *Cincinnati* BUTCHERS' SUPPLY COMPANY

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HELEN AND BLADE STREETS,
OFF 5600 VINE ST.
P. O. BOX 16D
CINCINNATI 16, OHIO

Dr. Robert A. Kehoe
c/o Kettering Laboratory
Medical College
University of Cincinnati
Cincinnati, Ohio

September 23, 1964

Dear Dr. Kehoe:

With this letter I am including a clipping that I found in the Cincinnati Post. You may have plenty of these clippings, but undoubtedly another will be appreciated.

May I report that Dr. Stein was very pleased with the fact that you and Dr. Cleveland presented our case.

With best wishes , I am,

Sincerely,

THE CINCINNATI BUTCHERS' SUPPLY COMPANY

Oscar Schmidt
Oscar Schmidt
President

COS/go
Encl.

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TRACES OF LEAD SUGGEST POISONING KILLED OFF EMPIRE'S LEADERS

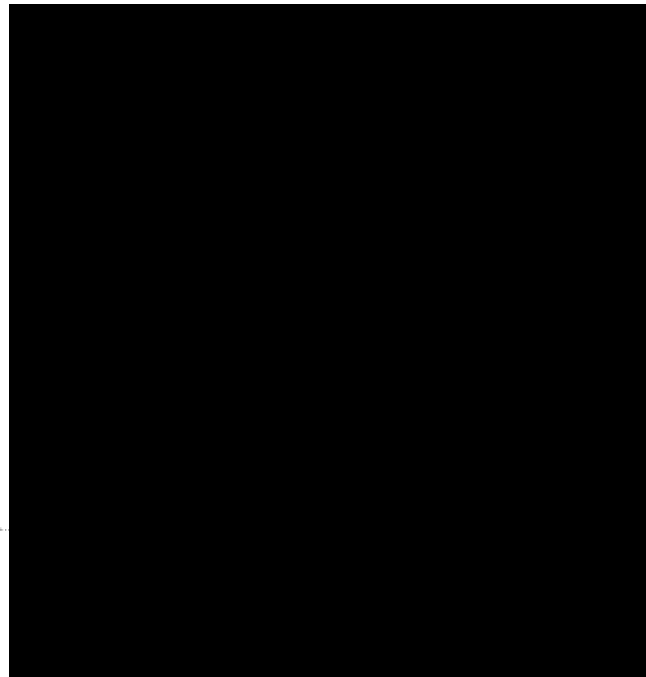
Ancient Roman Bones Studied at Kettering

The bones of ancient Romans—dug up by an American archaeologist who believes they may contain the secret of the decline of the Roman Empire—have found their way to Cincinnati.

Kettering Laboratory's Dr. Robert A. Kehoe is the expert called in to study the bones and determine whether lead poisoning could have been the cause of illness or death.

The bones were collected from ancient Roman cemeteries by S. S. Gilfillan, Santa Monica, Cal., archaeologist. He says that traces of lead found in these and other ancient bones suggest that lead poisoning, from poor diets, killed off the ruling classes of Rome and thus prepared the way for the empire's fall.

(The traces of lead could have resulted from the excessive use of lead products for sweetening and coloring. Chromate of lead can be used to color confections



DR. ROBERT KEHOE STUDIES ANCIENT ROMAN BONES

and sweets, and oxide of lead to sweeten sour wine.) Gilfillan's theory, de-

scribed in a Post and Times-Star story last week, is that the wealthy and in-

telligent Romans died out because they ate rich foods and wines which contained high levels of poisonous lead. The poorer Romans, who had plainer but healthier diets, took over, but were unable to hold the empire together, he says.

TO TEST his theory, Gilfillan asked Dr. Kehoe to analyze and study the lead content of the bones. Dr. Kehoe, director of the University of Cincinnati's Kettering Laboratory, is an internationally known authority on lead poisoning and the metabolism of lead in man.

"There is always a certain amount of lead in the bones of man," Dr. Kehoe said. "The question here is, how much."

Dr. Kehoe's job will be determined whether the lead content of the bones is above established "safe" limits, and high enough to cause illness or death.