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December 17, 1940

Mr. S. Kitto
Belle City Malleable Iron Company
Racine, Wisconsin

Dear Mr. Kitto:

I send herewith a copy of the result obtained on the feces of Mr. [REDACTED].

This result like that obtained on the urine in November, and like those obtained last January, is clearly indicative of a significant exposure to lead. I doubt the correctness of the result obtained on the urine for it is so high as to be a bit on the improbable side, and I suspect that it may have been contaminated at the time of collection. In this connection it is unfortunate that a blood sample was not collected according to our instructions at the time the urine sample was obtained, for it would probably have given us the answer to the question of whether or not contamination of the urine had occurred. (The purpose of sending the tubes for blood was to obtain a sample of blood for analysis, not for microscopic examination, and this would have been more useful than the analysis of the feces. Nevertheless, the result obtained on the urine was high, and also that on the feces was high. The conclusion is inescapable, therefore, that [REDACTED] is taking in rather large quantities of lead.

I should be doing less than my duty if I did not warn you that the situation revealed by these analyses, to date, is a serious one, and if other men are involved in the type of exposure indicated by these analytical results, there is danger of severe lead poisoning. Therefore, we should take such steps as are necessary to find out whether there is something radically wrong with the collection of these samples, or whether they reveal the true state of affairs. If they do this, then the exposure of other men should be determined and if they are found to be of similar magnitude, something must be done to eliminate the hazard.

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As a first step, I recommend, as Dr. Machle has done in his letter of November 25th, that a sample of blood and a sample of urine be obtained for us by one of your local physicians, exercising all the detailed care that is necessary to avoid the slightest contamination of these samples. After the analysis of these samples, we can see what further steps need to be taken. Something, however, should be done, for you are now in possession of highly significant results which, if true, indicate that Putney is exposed to a serious lead hazard.

Very truly yours,

RAK:is

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.

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[REDACTED]

Sample of urine submitted 11-15-40 by S. Kitto, Belle City
Malleable Iron Company, Racine, Wisconsin.

Urine

Analysis Number = 40A-3975

Volume = 100 ml

Mgs Pb/L = 0.88

Sample submitted: 11-15-40

Sample reported: 11-19-40

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