

Excerpts from letter dated May 13, 1958

From: Harriet L. Hardy, M. D.

To: Manfred Bowditch

I have been re-reading my mail in the active box and want to send a few lines on your letter of May 2. Referring to page 2, I should think the author was not justified in recommending that tetraethyl lead be replaced by benzol. I am not so sure how I feel about the use of EDTA. The part that interested me is the apparent reality of a pathological entity involving the kidney tubules in cases of metal intoxication receiving chelating compounds. If we look very hard at our cases of lead poisoning that are clinically serious, they have had big doses of lead and/or long exposures. I am one of those who believes that it is not impossible that the kidney may have become "tired" of excreting a heavy metal if not directly affected, so it may follow that a slightly damaged kidney which is presented with a material potentially toxic to the same anatomical part of the kidney involved in excreting lead may find this overwhelming and over disease appear. I believe there is no question about using EDTA in childhood lead poisoning and in the right case I would use it for short periods in adults.

I think it would be fine to have Hervey Elkins' opinion of the Swiss product and I should be greatly in favor of getting Bob Kehoe to look at the document.

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