

March 9, 1959

Dr. D. K. Kitchen
4724 Fairwood Lane
Chattanooga
Tennessee

Dear Del:

I am sorry to have been so slow in writing to you, but I've been using every spare minute to complete a long report that was overdue, and no good opportunity arose to send even a brief note. I also mislaid your address, which delayed me, and put me to the necessity of finding your home address. I trust that this information will not be too late to be of help.

There is little evidence anywhere of any very significant toxic effect that has been induced by the administration of the inorganic compounds of titanium. In the Handbuch der experimentellen Pharmakologie (1955) which is essentially the authority on such matters, except for very recent developments, Heffter and Heubner, start out by saying "Soluble titanium compounds --- seem to have very little pharmacologic action". Other publications show that a number of investigators have administered such compounds to animals in large doses, with virtually no effect.

The only suggestion of injurious effects has arisen out of the introduction of finely divided titanium dust into the lungs of animals (which most investigators believe to be essentially inert), or the introduction of highly dispersed fume into the lungs (this can result in a reaction comparable to "metal fume fever").

If you have compounds in which titanium is combined with some odd anion, you may need to look at them a bit skeptically, but otherwise you should have no problem.

Please accept my thanks, tardily, for putting me in touch with Mr. Edward L. Mitchell. He could not accept the task I had in mind, but he aided me in getting one of his friends to take it on.

With kindest regards.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.

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