

January 6, 1938

Mr. K. N. Bagchi
Office of Chemical Examiner
to the Government, Bengal
Medical College
Calcutta, India

Dear Mr. Bagchi:-

Please accept my thanks for your two interesting articles on lead in the urine and feces, and on arsenic in human tissues and excreta. These data are very interesting to me and I hope you will send me any further articles which come out on the continuation of these studies.

It occurs to me that you will be interested in some of the work which we have been doing and that you may find particularly useful the data which we have obtained on the study of large numbers of urinary samples both on single individuals and on large numbers of subjects taken at random.

There seems no doubt that the lead intake and output of the people studied by you is lower than that of persons in the American population. On the other hand I may say in all frankness that I am just a little skeptical as to the degree of variability of results obtained on the urine samples. In our experience the largest single factor which produces gross variation in the urinary lead excretion of a single individual is the water output from day to day. (I refer here, of course, to standard conditions of lead exposure. Thus if the lead intake is substantially the same from day to day, lead output in the urine will vary chiefly with the water output.) In other words the amount of water consumed is a factor and the amount lost in perspiration is also an important factor. The differences due to this factor will be seen clearly in studies made on subjects under laboratory conditions, as described in one of the articles which I am sending you.

This brings me to say that because of your interest in this subject, I am sending you, under separate cover, a number of reprints which describe the results of some of our studies in this laboratory. Unfortunately some of them were published in journals

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that do not have any wide international dissemination and they are, therefore, not easily available to workers outside of the United States. In any case I hope you will find these of some interest and some value, and I believe that the two most recent articles on methods of analysis will be of some practical use to you.

Sincerely yours,

RAK:is

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.