

Duke University Medical Center

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

March 12, 1963

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

Dr. Robert A. Kehoe
The Kettering Laboratory
College of Medicine
Eden Avenue
Cincinnati 19, Ohio

Dear Dr. Kehoe:

Thank you very much for your letter offering to collaborate on a study of lead poisoning as related to drinking of illicit whiskey. I was not aware that this form of poisoning occurred in sections of the country other than the southeast. I would greatly appreciate any information that you or the Internal Revenue Service could send me in regard to the magnitude of this problem. We are scheduled to give a paper next month in Minneapolis on this cause of lead encephalopathy, and additional data as to the incidence of this illness would be most useful.

I would be very much interested in collaborating with you on a pilot study of the incidence of lead intoxication or latent plumbism in chronic alcoholics in this area. I do not think that I could give a great deal of time, however, to a large scale study of this type, but I would like to learn what type of study you have in mind and perhaps I could assign some of our summer students to helping us with this project. I doubt whether we will need large sums of money for this purpose. It also occurs to me that it might be useful to make lead determinations on the tissues of patients dying with chronic alcoholism in recent years to determine whether the diagnosis of lead poisoning was overlooked. Our pathology departments keep tissues from such patients for a number of years and lead determinations may be feasible.

In preparation for our paper, we have been making a survey of the literature on lead poisoning. I am, of course, quite familiar with the work done in your laboratory and would like very much to have reprints of your studies on lead poisoning, with particular reference, if possible, to lead encephalopathy. I would also appreciate having a copy of your Harbin lecture, which appeared in the Archives of Environmental Health, 2:418, 1961.

Thank you again for your interest in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Albert Heyman

Albert Heyman, M.D.

AH/mjt

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