

December 17, 1934

Dr. Walter Bower
Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr. Bower:

It has come to my attention through somewhat circuitous channels that two men, French Canadians, father and son, were under your care in the hospital apparently suffering from chronic lead poisoning as the result of contact with clothing repeatedly cleaned with gasoline containing lead. I am somewhat at a loss to explain why anyone should use colored gasoline for the dry-cleaning of clothing, and I am at a somewhat greater loss to understand that cases of lead poisoning might have developed from contact with clothing cleaned in this fashion. Nevertheless I should be very much interested in having any information which you could give me about these cases since my associates and I have been investigating all cases of suspected lead poisoning associated with leaded gasoline over a period of years. I should appreciate it very much indeed if you would give me a brief account of the illness of these men and of the bases on which the diagnosis was made. It seems entirely possible that the information I have received may be incorrect. If so, I should be very glad if you would let me know.

I should not take the liberty of imposing upon your time if it were not that this entire question is of considerable consequence in relation to public health, and we have been doing our best to ascertain the facts.

Very truly yours,

RAK:IS

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.