

Du Pont Cases - TEL



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482

N 24431

KE 0020849

Mr. Mathias H. Heck
815 U. B. Building
Dayton, Ohio

Dear Mr. Heck:

As the result of my
interview on the afternoon of July 1st, I
herewith a statement on the case of [REDACTED]
so far as the facts are known to me. As I
have not seen Mr. [REDACTED] for several years,
I have no direct knowledge of his present condition.
The results of Dr. Fischbein's examination are
adequate to establish the facts in that regard.
Therefore I have no hesitation in expressing my opinion.

I trust that this statement
will cover your requirements.

Very

RAK:is

Robert

KE 0020850

the relationship of his present condition to the entirely clear, and it appears that a statement would be beneficial in clarifying certain aspects of the case. As much as I, as plant physician, was responsible for the care of Mr. [REDACTED] during his employment and of his illness.

Mr. [REDACTED] was employed by Ethyl Gasoline in its Dayton, Ohio, plant for blending Ethyl 1924. At this time the hazards in the handling of lead had been explored in at least a preliminary way and safeguards had been devised for the purpose of protecting workmen to avoid serious lead exposure. As I did not anticipate that cases of lead poisoning would occur, in fact nothing more serious than minor or moderate cases were noted in workmen during this period. Mr. [REDACTED] was employed during a previous period when conditions were not so well controlled and there was a possibility that he had ever been seriously exposed to lead. When he became ill and was seen by me on March 11, 1924, he appeared to me to be a typical case of influenza occurring with somewhat less than epidemic intensity. I sent him home (after an examination) to be cared for by his physician, with no apprehension as to any further exposure to lead.

KE 0020851

and from my belief that his lead exposure had been enough to produce lead encephalopathy, I concluded that dealing with a post-influenzal encephalitis was different from the other physicians, who since have discarded the relationship of influenza to [REDACTED] cerebral [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] had the benefit of seeing the onset and character of the disease, nor do they know anything about the plant where Mr. [REDACTED] worked. They make the unwarranted conclusion that [REDACTED] had a serious and obviously dangerous condition on that basis arrive at a conclusion by much less soundness of reasoning.) Despite my tentative opinion in the case, I considered it wise to hospitalize [REDACTED] him under observation, and to instigate treatment to determine that his condition was due to the absorption of lead. Facilities for making a prompt differential diagnosis were available then as now, and, in my opinion, [REDACTED] on the theory that if lead were a factor, further delay in patient might result fatally. Accordingly [REDACTED] treatment in a private hospital, where he resided, so noisy and uncontrollable as to necessitate [REDACTED] Dayton State Hospital, at which time he went to [REDACTED] that his conditions would not be understood [REDACTED] might not be carried out, I followed him to [REDACTED]

by the admission diagnosis of tetraethyl lead poisoning, without the benefit of such confirmation as their subsequent history have provided.

The patient's subsequent course is unremarkable and requires no additional information from the literature. The experience of the past fifteen years, and the potential dangers in the handling of tetraethyl lead, the course and sequelae of tetraethyl lead poisoning, shed light on this case, and should be of value in determining the present status of Mr. [REDACTED]. By re-examination it now seems much more assured than it was that [REDACTED] acute illness was the result of a lead poisoning and certain of its decomposition products contribute to that opinion, which, unfortunately, is difficult to prove.

First, despite the fact that no other cases of lead poisoning among which Mr. [REDACTED] worked became ill as a result of absorption, (all other cases reported from the earlier period when the conditions were admittedly more favorable) it is known that certain opportunities for exposure to lead which would be considered ^{potentially} dangerous now, were not then so considered. [REDACTED] have had greater exposure than I believed possible at the time of illness.

Second, the time of the onset of the illness in relation to the cessation of exposure and

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Third, two cases of a schizophrenic tetraethyl lead intoxication, in association of behavior tendencies in this direction, inability of this intoxication to intensify at least temporarily. Recovery occurred in both, indeed it may be said that no permanent sequelae were seen in relation to tetraethyl lead intoxication. In the case of Mr. Sibole had definite stigmata of memory impairment, my acquaintance with him, and the development of a neurosis might be regarded as the sequel of an acute intoxication, emphasized by the shock of commitment to an institution for the insane as well as subsequent isolation from family, friends and acquaintances. This is a compensation neurosis but for the fact that it had continued some time ago, and the further development of a mental condition of mental deterioration, as shown in the recent (May 27, 1940) examination of Mr. Sibole would appear to be too serious to fit in with the previous condition.

There is, of course, some doubt as to whether the present condition of Mr. Sibole is due to tetraethyl lead absorption in this case, or whether it is due to that the present mental status of Mr. Sibole is due to some other stimulus, or perhaps without any stimulus. Be this as it may, his present condition does not appear to be

with the results of Dr. Fischbein's examination. Mr. [REDACTED] disability is permanent and thus regarded as the result of the acute intoxication suffered in 1925, not in the sense that there was an organic disease of the brain with permanent effects. The intoxication was the stimulus which brought about the mental state and contributed to its establishment of a behavior pattern.

Signed: G

Rob

Rec'd 5-19-36

KE 0020855

poration since December, 1924. History taken closed no significant previous illness. His showed no indications of any absorption of le substances. Physical examination showed only

Tonsils are large, rough and anterior. Small amount of liquid puss could be expressed. Teeth showed a moderate pyorrhea with some purulent pockets. Chest rather poorly developed could be found in either the lungs or the heart. There were no abnormalities found on examination of urine.

During the time of his employment no occurred. In February he developed a common cold about two weeks leaving him in a somewhat subnormal state. His temperature and blood pressure were normal in morning hours but no other signs of illness were present. He was off from work for several days and returned in good health. On March 17th he reported with a very severe headache and a temperature of $99-4/5^{\circ}$. He complained of weakness and intense weakness. He was sent home under the care of other physicians. His condition was improving until Saturday, March 28th when it was found he was delirious.

When seen by me Saturday afternoon the following follows: He was lying in bed apparently in a stupor. He was unable to recognize anyone but his wife. He was irrationally at times, and refused all medical treatment. His condition at this time resembled rather strikingly encephalitis but the description of his previous condition and the physician together with afebrile condition suggested tetraethyl lead intoxication. That he had been delirious, apparently fearful, disturbing dreams and otherwise running amuck. He had felt it necessary the night before to quiet himself with morphine, $1/2$ grain in one dose. This use of hypnotics had failed entirely to quiet him at all. It appeared that his later stuporous condition was due to the morphine.

With presumable diagnosis of a second attack superimposed upon a convalescent acute infection, treatment was instituted for the clearing up of the mental condition of lead. Inasmuch as no medication could be given by mouth a solution of sodium carbonate and sodium chloride (Solution) was instilled per rectum. This was continued for about two hours later the patient became rati-

lucid state developed into an acute mania at morning. He was restrained and about 800 c.c. administered intravenously. The administration hour and a quarter at the end of which time he and for brief intervals of time appeared rational a somewhat confused state. After a few hours again developed into an extremely noisy, talkative condition. He appeared to be on the point of and 2% magnesium sulphate was administered in quieted at once and broke into a profuse perspiration condition he was moved to the Dayton State Hospital.

In view of the experience which has been up to the present, it seems worth while to mention things which have been observed. In the first of acute mania of this type only one has survived died of exhaustion in the course of acute mania. The common hypnotics have been used and have proved disadvantage rather than advantage. They aggravate the maniacal symptoms and in fact they appear to do so. This with one notable exception. One case was treated with apomorphine; whether by accident or not it induced sleep which lasted for 17 hours from which he recovered his mental state. A week later he developed another attack which was controlled in the same fashion. ✓

I have been fearful of the use of hypodermic that it seems to me that by their very nature they increase the severity of a condition brought about by lead as lead. It has been experimentally shown in the fatal cases that an edema of the brain develops. It has seemed advisable to me to make an attempt and thus if possible to bring back the normal condition. In addition to that magnesium sulphate is known to depress the nervous system depressant and I have used it in its strong dehydrating powers. The success which has been met in the case of this man would apply to the use.

In our milder cases I have found it best to use salts and alkalies by mouth. We have demonstrated that by this means the excretion of lead from the body is increased. In bringing about this result I have used a mixture: sodium bicarbonate - 4 parts, magnesium carbonate and calcium carbonate - one part. This is administered about 20 grams daily. The quantity being determined necessary to obtain and maintain a slight alkali.

into course of treatment has been so satisfactory
worth while to make note of it.

The above suggestions as to the the
as a presumption but merely as a statement of
which you may or may not be interested in pur

(Signed) Rob

Robert
Medical

ETHYL GA

KE 0020858

DIAGNOSIS: 12. Psychosis with other infectious (influenza poisoning may have been)

ADMITTED: March 1, 1925. First Admission

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE:

"Use of foul and profane language, medicine or remain in bed without rest is a bird or pet animal; again a giant seed; asks to be allowed to get out of scow and sing. Struggles, spits and c

FAMILY HISTORY:

Father and mother are both living age and getting feeble. Mother has p and father has a rupture; is about 80 maiden name was Boyer; is of Scotch ancestry in Ohio. Father was born in West Virginia and four sisters. One sister, five years ago at the age of 45 years health. One brother, Phil, was also Corporation and the patient's wife still trouble as the patient and had to give absent-mindedness and delusions of knowledge hearing voices. This brother is 34 years brothers are in good health.

PERSONAL HISTORY:

Commitment papers give the patient the patient declares that he was born He states he was never in very good health rheumatism from the age of 10 upward. age of 7 years and continued until 17 6th grade. He claims that he did not on account of inability to learn but and attended irregularly. Puberty at

He was married in 1918 and went stove factory then came to Springfield the farm for about two years, going in and Mills concern running a press and He states that he has always been troubled always had to take something, usually

0020859

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PRESENT ILLNESS:

He started to work at the Ethyl Christmas time and in February he was with a severe headache, temporal. He told him that he had the influenza with the he was out of his head and that his ear. He says that his wife and two of his at same time, his mother-in-law taking care taking their temperature one time and

MENTAL STATUS:

On admission the patient talked a He said his food was poisoned and complained, spat and cursed so that it was a He was disoriented in all spheres but at this time, however he is inclined to give, morose and melancholy.

Memory for past and present even poor. General grasp is poor.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION:

General Appearance:

Patient is a tall slender moderately stooped; slightly fine, fairly oily. Supra

Eyes: Eyes brows are heavy; eye Set slightly oblique; brown spots on the skin under

Ears: Regular, normal in size and fine scar on ear drum. L Scar of left mastoid oper

Nose: Regular; tip slightly thickened, deviated to the left side enlarged. Subacute

Neck: Shows uniform enlargement

Teeth: In good condition; slight

Tonsils: Small, apparently negative

Throat: Negative.

Chest: Shoulders stooped. Practically thin, soft and fairly oily hollow anteriorly. Atrophic over anterior upper portion notches obliterated. Venous anterior portion of chest

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PHYSICAL EXAMINATION: (Continued)

left trapezius markedly increased. Right shoulder : than left. Right scapula m slightly winged. Superficial noted on back. Rhomboid m Lungs: Vocal fremitus increased on to the 4th dorsal. Heart: Normal in size and position ated. No murmurs heard. Abdomen: Walls flaccid; fairly we touch. Liver normal in size G. U.: History of gonorrhea with 25 years. Extremities: Negative.

NEUROLOGICAL EXAMINATION:

Upper reflexes normal.
Pupils react to light and accommodation.
Ankle clonus negative.
Babinski and Oppenheim negative.
Knee kicks equal, exaggerated.

DIAGNOSIS: 12. Psychosis with other s infectious (influenza) Poss pdsonging may have been a fa

ETIOLOGY: Influenza; possibly tetra Eth

PROGNOSIS: Good for partial recovery.

TREATMENT: Referato Dr. Marthens and I McClellen.

NOTES: March 29, 1925. $\frac{1}{2}$ gr. Luminol; Forced to drink milk and water. Dr. Mar

March 30, 1925. Given morphine sulphate sulphate, saturated solution 1 gram eve

April 1, 1925. Patient given sodium hy venously twice daily; sodium hypophosph water three times daily; tincture digital daily.

KE 0020861

NOTES CONTINUED:

April 7, 1925. Sodium hypophosphite int

April 9, 1925. Syrup iodide of iron one meal.

April 13, 1925. Discontinued digitalis.

April 15, 1925. Boric irrigation three five drops of iodized glycerine to eye.

April 18, 1925. Discontinued Epsom salt Regular diet. Permit patient to get up.

KE 0020862

DIAGNOSIS: 12. Psychosis with other somatic
febrile (influenza) Possibly
may have been a factor.

FIRST PRESENTATION: June 23, 1925.

CONVERSATION: Dr. MBeggs and Patient.

- Q. Hello, Harold, how are you today?
- A. Pretty good. You have got this room, haven't you?
- Q. Yes, sir. Would you like to go to the room?
- A. No, I feel like if I could get home I would.
- Q. Are you worried again or yet?
- A. Yet.
- Q. How long have you been in the hospital?
- A. I don't remember now. I can't tell you.
- Q. But you are in fair condition now?
- A. Yes.
- Q. What makes you think so?
- A. I know what I am doing now.
- Q. What else do you want to do?
- A. I think that if I could go home I would.
- Q. Are you sleeping well now?
- A. Sleep fine.
- Q. How about those dreams?
- A. They don't bother me very much.
- Q. Do you hear voices yet?
- A. Once in a while.
- Q. Can you make out what they say?
- A. No.
- Q. Do you recognize the voices?
- A. No, I can't say that I do but the voice sometimes.
- Q. Do you think you have enemies?
- A. No, I cannot think that I have but all the time.
- Q. What are you afraid of?
- A. Seems that I am afraid that somebody might kill me.
- Q. Yet you think that you can go home and realize now that no one is trying to kill you just your imagination? Or do you think somebody might kill you?
- A. Well, it might be.
- Q. In other words, you are open to the possibility that somebody might want to kill you?
- A. Yes. When I am out in the open air I feel it is not like that. There

CONVERSATION CONTINUED:

there that I can not keep my mind s
would be better. Just the little t
seemed to help me. I think that i
be a whole lot better off.

Q. How old are you?

A. Thirty-one.

Q. What year were you born?

A. '94.

Q. Have you had a birthday lately?

A. March last.

Q. Are you right sure of that?

A. Whether I had a birthday?

Q. No whether you were born in '94?
born in '95.

A. Well, I have a record at home.

Q. Do you remember what year you were

A. No, I don't, I cannot remember the

Q. How old is your oldest boy?

A. About school age.

Q. Don't you really know how old he is

A. I can not tell you. I have forgot

have been sick. It seems like I

I have been sick, longer than it

things are mixed up so much.

Q. Don't you feel that you ought to g
tened out before you go home?

A. I don't believe that I ever will g

Q. Don't you even remember what year

A. My wife can remember that. Lots o

Q. I think it would be wise for you t

A. That is up to you people. I can't
me here.

Q. If we keep you here it will only b
necessary.

A. I am sure I would be 100% better i
How will I get away from here? Wi
or something? Will somebody have

Q. Your wife can take you out of here

A. What if they don't want me out?

Q. The Dayton State Hospital are the
anything to say about whether you

A. There is such a conglomeration abo

Q. There is nothing wrong about your
or are being paid.

A. That is what beats me. It seems
stock on every hand.

KE 0020864

CONVERSATION CONTINUED:

- Q. You have really improved wonderfully.
lbs.
- A. Yes, I feel better but I feel that for something, some interest, I want.
- Q. Well, you leave that entirely up to you as soon as you are able.
- A. What do you think about me going?
- Q. I think it might be all right. You didn't you?
- A. Yes, sir.
- Q. Well, thank you very much, we will.
- A. Do you think I can go home Sunday?
- Q. Yes, on a visit.
- A. My wife seemed to think I might go a few days and if I proved satisfactory.
- Q. Well you wait until we see here again. I know. You are getting along fine.

DR. BEGGS: Suggest that the diagnosis be a history of influenza and also a history of Ethyl gas. Treatment as above outlined with regard to elimination. Also suggest referring the man for nasal condition. Suggest complete 24 hour specimen; if urine contains albumin. Urinalysis at intervals of at least every 24 hours.

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A. No.

A. I can not say as to that. Dr. Penat c

Q. How many children do you have?

A. Three.

A. I was good all day.

A. I think someone is going to kill me all

Q. We will see about it. We want you to

A. I would like to get my release written

Q. Are you hearing any voices at night?

Q. Can you hear what they say?

Q. Do you recognize the voices?

Q. Well things will be all taken care of.

KE 00208

IMPRESSION: 2. 13. Manic Depressive Psych

FIRST PRESENTATION: June 16, 1925.

CONVERSATION: Dr. McClellan and Patient.

- Q. Hello, Harold, sit right down. How are you the hospital now?
- A. I just don't know.
- Q. Tell me about how long?
- A. I came here in March.
- Q. Why did you come here?
- A. I don't know, I was out of my head.
- Q. Ever have an attack like that before?
- A. No.
- Q. Have you ever been in a hospital before?
- A. Springfield Hospital.
- Q. What were you in there for?
- A. Mastoid.
- Q. How long ago?
- A. I don't know.
- Q. About how old were you?
- A. I cannot just remember how old. About 18.
- Q. How old are you now?
- A. Thirty.
- Q. Have you had a birthday since you came into
- A. March 4th. I don't know how long I have been out of my head. My mind wanders in periods but I can get outside. I went out to see my folks and they will tell you that.
- Q. What do you think is the cause of you getting sick?
- A. Well, I don't know. Ethyl gas is all that.
- Q. Did it ever bother you before?
- A. I never worked with it before.
- Q. How long had you worked at the General Motors
- A. I could not say. It is no use for me to say. I can tell you better than I can. About three years.
- Q. What is your boss's name?
- A. Arthur S. -----
- Q. Did you first become sick while working at home?
- A. They sent me home.
- Q. You must have become sick at the plant then, is that the plant?
- A. Dr. Keyhole.
- Q. Do you remember going to Dr. Hatcher's hospital?
- A. No, I don't remember that.