

R.A. Kehoe.

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Dr. Charles Stevens,
The Kettering Laboratory of Applied Physiology,
University of Cincinnati,
College of Medicine,
Eden Avenue,
CINCINNATI 19,
Ohio,
U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Stevens,

Since last writing to you about the fatty salts of lead, further salts have now come to my notice, namely the following:- lead stearate, and lead adipate, in which I would be grateful for knowledge of the toxicity in terms of the metabolism and chemistry of the body.

Basically, the problem is that I am trying to determine whether such salts behave in practice as ordinary soluble ionising salts, or whether, by virtue of their fatty combination they ionise less rapidly, and are therefore more likely to behave differently when transported in the blood, with an action more closely related to the organic compounds of lead, such as tetra- and tri-ethyl lead.

The other problem, of course, which I have to consider is the question as to whether such fatty compounds are in some measure excreted as such in part in the urine, for this would obviously affect the lead analytical figures where ionic lead is involved.

I hope all this is not troubling you too much, but I look forward to hearing from you, with any comments you may care to make on this subject.

Yours sincerely,



P.R. BOYD.
Chief Medical Officer.

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