

April 21, 1964

Miss Barbara B. Thomas, M.T.
2551 West Elm Street
Lima, Ohio

Dear Miss Thomas:

The question raised in your letter of April 17th, is stated in somewhat ambiguous terms, so that I must make certain assumptions, out of my experience in industry, if I am to answer it properly. I believe, however, that I understand your meaning.

The threat of lead poisoning among the workmen in certain types of foundries is a serious one, which first is a medical problem, and then becomes an engineering problem. The purpose of medical supervision, initially, is that of determining whether, and at what sites, if any, cases of lead poisoning occur. If such cases occur, the environmental conditions, with respect to lead, are unsatisfactory and dangerous, and they must be brought under satisfactory control if cases are to be prevented.

There are methods whereby the existence and the severity of the hazard can be determined, but these are not such that they can be mastered fully by a medical technician, or even by a well-trained chemist, without special attention to certain details. Moreover, these results have to be reported to a physician, and dealt with by him, in the handling of any cases of actual or alleged that may occur.

If you are associated with a physician (or physicians) who has the medical responsibility for the foundry of which you speak, you and he should consider how you might acquire such training as you need for the proper performance of suitable laboratory procedures, and he should consider how he might interpret and utilize the results of such procedures so as to promote the health and safety of the employees. Neither of these matters can be dealt with satisfactorily by correspondence, but if you and he or both of you were to pay us a visit, we could acquaint you with the nature of the situation and could arrive at some suitable means of handling it.

We have assisted a good many physicians and chemists in matters of this sort by one means or another, and I should certainly suggest that a personal interview is the quickest and best way to get at the matter. I must warn you, however, that this is not a task for a medical technician to handle alone, but that it is essential to have

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the guidance and direct collaboration of a physician at all times.

Cordially yours,

RAK:vr

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.

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.. JR., M. D.

WM. G. GRANNIS, M. D.

G. E. WRIGHT, M. D.

General Practice

PHYSICIANS BUILDING

2551 WEST ELM STREET ROAD, LIMA, OHIO

PHONE 991-2015

April 17, 1964

Dr. Kehoe

*College of Industrial Medicine
University of Cincinnati
Cincinnati, Ohio*

Dear Dr. Kehoe,

*Please advise us if there is a
practical method of determining the degree
of lead intoxication in blood or urine
which could be run routinely at specified
intervals on foundry labors.*

Thank you for this courtesy.

*Barbara P. Thomas M.T.
2551 W. Elm Street
Lima, Ohio*

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