

April 9, 1943

Dr. David Perry,
New Castle,
Pennsylvania.

Dear Dr. Perry:

I have forwarded a rather complete report on my visit to the Johnson Bronze Company plant. In this report I have dealt in a general way with the matter of medical care and supervision with the two-fold idea that you would have an opportunity to study the entire report, and also that the management of the plant would know what I thought about the medical supervision and how it should be approached. In handling the matter in this fashion I trust that I have not committed you to more work than you had bargained for. I tried to avoid that by leaving the decision as to what should be done and how it should be done in your hands. As you will see from the report, it is my feeling that the industrial physician has to take on the responsibility for hygienic conditions in a plant of this sort. If he is to have such responsibility, he must have the authority commensurate with it, and I have drawn up the recommendations with this principle in mind.

I think perhaps I should say a word about the manner of collecting the various types of samples mentioned in the memorandum. Therefore, I am attaching hereto copies of the instructions which we use for the collection of samples. The articles which I have given you discuss the clinical significance of the samples, and therefore I need say nothing more on this subject at this time. Also you may find it useful to look over certain examination record forms that are in use in various places. Accordingly, I am sending you a form sent to me by Dr. Belknap of Milwaukee, together with a type of form which we use in our initial and periodic examination of certain men for whom we are responsible. Neither of these may be satisfactory for your purposes, and I should suggest that you devise a form that is suitable to your own needs. In any case, proper records should be kept on a suitable form, and as you will see in my recommendations, I feel quite strongly that these records should be the property of the physician and not of the management of the plant.

With further reference to the collection of samples, I think you will have to take the utmost care in obtaining samples of blood and small samples of urine. If you obtain these in the plant,

Dr. David Perry - (2) - April 9, 1943

you will have to have a place free of dust into which the men could come only after removing their work clothing and cleaning themselves up. Otherwise the samples are certain to be contaminated, and the analytical results will be useless. I can provide you with the necessary containers as well as the needles for collecting the blood and also sample bottles for the collection of urine. These can be sent to you in such a way that they can be returned by air mail. In relation to diagnostic work, we should have an accompanying letter in every instance describing the occupational conditions, particularly with reference to whether the man is still employed or whether his exposure has come to an end. I may just as well make myself clear on this score. There are two matters that are to be considered, one is the necessity of obtaining adequate information by means of which analytical results can be interpreted; the other is the accumulation at this end of adequate clinical information in each case. This is not a diagnostic laboratory in the ordinary sense of the word, and we do not make charges for profit. Actually, what I expect to do is to collect extensive information on occupational lead poisoning, and this is our only justification in normal times for doing this type of work. At present, of course, there is the additional factor of the war effort and the necessity of assisting industry in this effort in every possible way.

Finally, it occurs to me that you may wish to raise questions about my recommendations as well as concerning the information which I have supplied to you. I shall be glad to hear from you and only too pleased to give you any possible assistance.

It was a pleasure to meet you and your father, and I trust I shall be able to renew that pleasure again when we both have somewhat more time at our disposal.

Cordially yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

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