

February 25, 1943

Dr. James G. Howell,  
715 Frederick Avenue,  
Catonsville, Maryland.

Dear Dr. Howell:

I am sending you herewith a copy of our analytical results on the urine and blood of your patient, Mr. [REDACTED]. These results, as you will note, are within normal limits and are indicative of what would be anticipated from the facts in this instance, namely, that he has eliminated the lead absorbed as a consequence of his exposure in the cleaning of a gasoline storage tank. As I have pointed out to you formerly, it has been our experience that men who have suffered this type of poisoning, have recovered completely following the elimination of their absorbed lead down to approximately normal levels. We have no record of any case of irreversible injury to the central or peripheral nervous system in the series of more than eighty cases on whom we have complete records. Among this group have been cases of very serious poisoning in which recovery was in doubt for a time, and in which in some instances, symptoms lasted over a period of weeks or even months. In these cases, the lead findings in the blood and urine remained high over prolonged periods, but recovery occurred when the analytical results approached normal values. Our experience leads us to believe that any permanent injury to the nervous system is highly improbable, and that the failure to recover, if such a case were to occur, would more likely be attributed to functional rather than organic disturbances. For these reasons, I should be very grateful to you if you would forward to me any information concerning the neurologic examination of Mr. Witter. It seems quite possible that any symptoms of which he is now complaining, are neurotic in origin rather than toxic. In saying this, I do not mean to indicate that a neurosis is not an important matter. In fact, I am quite sure that it is in many instances. I do hope for Mr. Witter's sake that this case will be brought to a prompt conclusion on some decisive basis that will aid in avoiding any further stimulation of neurotic manifestations.

I have no intention of sending in a bill for our services in this case. I should deeply appreciate, however, having any pertinent information concerning him, that becomes available, and I should very much like to know what is the final disposition of his case. If there is anyone else who will have information to whom I might write, I should appreciate it if you

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Dr. Robert  
Ketter  
N.Y.

Dr. James G. Howell: - (2) - February 25, 1943  
will let me know.

Cordially yours,

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Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

RAK ef

Enc.

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