

Cleveland, Ohio
May 12, 1955

Kettering Laboratory
College of Medicine
Eden Avenue
Cincinnati 9, Ohio

Gentlemen:

Please send as soon as possible eight sterile
containers for lead urine specimen to McGean Chemical,
2910 Harvard Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio.

Yours truly,

R. H. Thompson M.D.

R. H. Thompson, M.D.
Works Physician

Dear Doctor Thompson:

I enclose with this note a form letter, which gives some
necessary information. I am compelled to resort to this procedure because of the
time required otherwise in correspondence in these matters.

The letter, however, does not cover the situation posed by your request.
You do not make clear what your purpose is in connection with these analyses. If you wish
to appraise the significance of the exposure to and absorption of lead on the part of this small
group of men, this is not the way to do it. I think therefore you had better acquaint
me with your situation and your purpose, and I can advise you how best to proceed.

The results of the analyses of small samples of the urine of this small group of men
will not tell you what you need to know. It will be necessary either to obtain samples
of blood along with the urine samples, as you will have to obtain a series of samples of the
urine of each man. Small samples of urine from a small group of men will yield results too variable to be
useful. We do not do analyses for lead, since this is in no sense of the word a standard and several

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tell me what it is, and provide me with all of the information needed to give you good advice

Perhaps I need not point out to you that as a physician, the information you give me will be held in confidence, but since these matters are so hot so loose in these days, it seems wise to indicate that this is a medical function, and a matter of professional policy and duty, we deal with industries, through their appropriate officials as physicians, as our patients, we cannot serve them unless we have the information that enables us to understand their trouble, and to prescribe for it properly. But for our acceptance of this professional duty, because of the nature of our function, we would not allow ourselves or our regular work to be disturbed and interrupted by services of this type.

In order not to delay you in what may be a serious matter,
I suggest that you obtain samples of each of these men in containers which I shall supply with detailed instructions. If you wish to do this, send me word by return mail or telegram, and they will be sent at once. Then while we are getting these samples and analyzing them, you can inform me on the details of the problem with which you are concerned. If these men are ill, I shall want full information about them. If they are under investigation as representatives of a certain type of plant exposure, I shall need the story of their employment and their specific hazard. In any case, I should like as full information on their occupational and chemical status as is necessary to provide you with an adequate interpretation of the analytical results in relation to the situation with which you are presented.

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