

November 9, 1937

Dr. C. R. Wilcox
712 Laurel Street
Jacksonville, Florida

Re: George Turner

Dear Doctor Wilcox:-

The suspected illness of this employee is of more than usual importance in relation to the possibility of lead exposure in tank cleaning operations of the type described in the Jacksonville instance. I have at hand the completed record of Dr. Kitzmiller's examination of Mr. [REDACTED] the analytical data obtained on him, and various other records giving the history of the incident. I have the utmost confidence in the judgment of Dr. Kitzmiller who, as you probably know, has been associated with me in this work for a long time. It seems improbable, therefore, that [REDACTED] had any serious illness as a consequence of lead absorption. On the other hand our experience with this problem is such that none of us who have seen cases of suspected lead absorption of this type can be entirely certain of the significance of our clinical observations. Dr. Kitzmiller would not be too certain, therefore, and I am in the queer position of being less certain by one degree than is even he, since I did not have an opportunity to see the case. Our lead determinations on this patient were a little bit ambiguous and are certainly not conclusive evidence of any lead absorption on his part. Under the circumstances which existed, I did not like to initiate any further investigation into the problem, but I do raise the question with you and I would appreciate it very much if you would give me the fullest information which you may have, or which you can obtain on this patient. I take it from the fact that you did not obtain samples in the containers which were sent you that it was not possible for you to get ahold of Mr. [REDACTED] for this purpose. I wonder if it would be feasible for you to see him at your reasonably early convenience and find out what his present status is, and I wonder also if you could let me have some further information about what has happened to him since we last heard from him.

KE 0021131

Dr. Wilcox

I do not like to again raise the question of the nature of this man's illness, but it is of the greatest importance that I know, as certainly as possible, whether there was or was not some factor, be it large or small, of lead absorption in connection with his illness. I believe this could be determined with reasonable satisfaction by knowing the clinical developments in his case since the time he was seen by Dr. Kitzmiller. If you could oblige me by giving me any information that you have, or if you could, without too great effort, obtain somewhat more information, I should regard it as the greatest courtesy on your part. For your convenience in this matter, I enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Moreover if you wish it, I shall regard any information which you can give me in the strictest confidence.

Cordially yours,

RAK:is

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.

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