



EST. 1913

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Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.
Director
Kettering Laboratory of
Applied Physiology
Eden Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Dr. Kehoe:

Mr. Forney has just turned over to me your letter of October 11, 1941, with which you submitted very complete suggestions and recommendations for the improvement and correction of our proposed revision of Health Practices Pamphlet No. 3, "Lead."

I sincerely appreciate your frank criticism, because it is my aim, in rewriting this pamphlet, to give the layman just sufficient information about lead poisoning so that he will recognize the complexities of the problem and secure the services of a physician rather than attempt an amateur diagnosis. I can see from your comments that I apparently have made the description of the signs of lead poisoning too complex, and I am going to go over it and adopt your suggestion.

You also asked about evidence on the absorption of lead into the body where it is suspended in oil compounds. This was put in at the suggestion of Dr. Ludwig Teleky, who stated, "Neither absorption by skin (except of tetraethyl lead) nor absorption by scratched skin is proved in workers, but in actors painting and rubbing in the whole body with white lead ointment." These are Dr. Teleky's exact words. Also, I had comments to the same effect where the phrase "lead poisoning is possible through abrasions of the skin where the lead is suspended in oil" from Dr. Louis Schwartz.

I do not feel, from all the references I have read, that the point is important enough to stress, and perhaps it would be better left out.

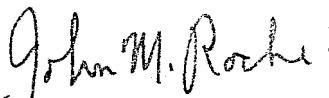
Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.

You offered in your list of suggestions, to include references on modifications of Fairhall's method, as well as other methods which might be employed for lead analyses. I should be very appreciative if you could furnish me with such a list of references so we could have them available when inquiries are received.

Originally, although you may not remember it, we described Fairhall's method as included in the Air Hygiene Foundation booklet on the subject. Since the method has largely been displaced by others, it was thought best to leave it out of this last draft. Also, we have shortened greatly the descriptions of the suggested methods that were presented in full in the original draft.

Again, I want to thank you for your cooperation in so painstakingly reviewing this Data Sheet. We, here at the Council, need the constructive help of men such as yourself who are experts in the field, and we sincerely appreciate it.

Cordially yours,


John M. Roche
Safety Engineer

JMR HRC

P. S. I had a long talk with Dr. Meek, of the Chrysler Corporation, at the National Safety Congress last week. He suggested other modifications which will be included in the pamphlet. I shall be sure to send you a copy of the final draft before it is submitted to the Executive Committee for approval for publication. If, at that time, you find any other points which need clarification, won't you please feel free to make the necessary changes.

J.M.R.