

Foreign Examinations - Tank
Cleaning Cases - (Organic Lead
Cases and PbET Gasoline Complaints)

N 24594

KE 0021484

Melbourne, C.I.,
Australia.

Dear Dr. Fairley:

It has been some time since we have corresponded to resume where we left off last time. The subject of this letter arises from the correspondence which I have recently in connection with two cases of tetraethyl lead poisoning treated by Dr. Blackburn and reported in some of the correspondence also contains a copy of your letter of the 10th of October. It seems wise in view of this whole matter to get your reaction to the conclusions, arrived at tentatively, concerning the efficacy of BAL in the treatment of tetraethyl lead poisoning. I am told that Dr. Blackburn is in your country and that I shall probably have an opportunity to discuss this matter with him in person. Meanwhile, I am giving you our opinion.

I have gone over the case records on the two cases mentioned above, available, and I am frank to say that I find nothing that would give me any great assurance that the use of BAL had materially influenced the outcome of the treatment. These cases were in no wise to be regarded as unusual. These cases always have their ups and downs, and their recovery has been such as to give one the impression that they have virtually been snatched from the grave. A number of cases when one would have expected them to die, and a number of cases when they were expected to survive. These vagaries of the course of a disease are, therefore, characteristic of the disease and not of its treatment. I do not mean to say that BAL has been useful. I feel quite certain that a number of cases have been saved by the virtue of the judicious use of barbiturates and adequate supportive treatment. However, I see nothing that there is any dramatically successful or successful cases of Dr. Blackburn are no exception.

There are a number of good experimental reasons for the usefulness of BAL in this condition. Experiments by Gilman in this country when he was with the Commonwealth have been reported to me informally. They seem to show clearly that BAL does not save the lives of animals given a dose of tetraethyl lead, whether the latter is given before or after the intoxication has developed. Otherwise referred to in an article of ours in SCIENCE, of

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We have a hope, which we are undertaking to in-
glucocide, which has low toxicity, may be emp-
some period of time to eliminate lead from the
rapidity. If this is feasible, it might turn
in dealing with certain types of men unduly ex-
occupations. However, even this type of ther-
used carefully, after thorough-going investiga-
release of lead from the erythrocytes of the
a maintained elevation of the lead in the plas-
injury to susceptible tissues. On the whole
a matter in which we should go slowly, being
courage the use of BAL in cases of this type,
carefully controlled conditions. I am frank
hesitate very much to use BAL in the case of
unless I had reason to feel that the chances
patient were negligible.

I have pointed this out to our people in London
that they should avoid communicating to anyone
we have demonstrated an adequate method for the
of poisoning.

I should be glad to hear from you on any account
you care to comment on my remarks.

With kindest personal regards,

PAK ef

Copy by air mail.
Original by steamer.

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