

April 28, 1961

Miss Erna A. Hinek
Consumers' Research Inc.
Washington, New Jersey

Dear Miss Hinek:

I'm sorry not to have had time to write up the cases of lead poisoning which resulted from the use of the pottery table ware last summer, together with the pertinent supplementary information. This was only one of many incidents in our work in this field over the years, and much more important matters are yet to be published. This is a good illustration of what happens so frequently to delay publication. We have found ourselves in the midst of a fairly extensive investigation of pottery and chinaware from the aspect of the development of a standard procedure of testing (to be used in production), and the establishment of suitable criteria of quality with respect to the resistance of glazes to the leaching out of lead.

As I suggested to you in an earlier letter, the answer to this is not the elimination of lead-containing glazes. Rather it depends upon adherence to a technology that insures against the chemical disintegration of glazes in use.

I shall undertake to publish this story, along with other pertinent information without undue delay. The important thing to me, however, is not a case report, but the solution of a problem. Incidentally, I am told that the producer of this tableware is out of business. I am sorry about this for I believe these people were putting forth an effort (without competent technical guidance) to make a product of high quality (in another sense, of course). This is another of the stern penalties for a specific type of ignorance, of which, innocently, one may be so readily guilty in our complicated society.

Very truly yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

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