

July 31, 1956

Note to Mr. Manfred Bowditch

Dear Manfred:

The reference in this to the observations on the effects of the administration of versene orally is of considerable significance in this problem, and to the situation in which Dr. Giessel is involved. These results have not been published. They should be, but I haven't had time to do so, and moreover, I want some additional observation of the same type for confirmation, not of the fact, but of the generalization. The "balance" experiment, done in 1955, demonstrates clearly a very considerable effect sustained for a full week. The total lead output, all of which occurred in the urine, without diminution of the fecal output (in relation to the intake in food) underwent a four-fold increase. The urinary concentration increased six-fold. This is an increase of small proportion, since it amounted to an absolute loss of somewhat less than 1 mg. of Pb from the body during the week. However, this is highly significant, and if maintained over some considerable period of time (which would not be the case, ordinarily) it would lower the lead level of the body appreciably in the course of months. Incidentally the people who are so keen on "deleading" tend to forget all about the quantitative aspects of this entire situation.

Sincerely yours,

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Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

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