

December 20, 1971

Miss Marjorie W. Jordan
Coordination Community Outreach
Department of Health
3101 Burnet Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45229

Dear Miss Jordan:

I should like to be of any possible assistance to the group in the Health Department which is concerned with the problem of lead poisoning among Cincinnati children, but I shall not be available on December 22nd, 1971, nor shall I be in Cincinnati during January, February and March of 1972. I hardly think that my help would be useful in any way in connection with the application for a grant, so that my failure to attend on Wednesday of this week does not disturb me. However, I have been involved with these children in lead determinations and in consultation with physicians in the General and Children's hospitals for many years, and I am deeply concerned with the means of preventing these tragic illnesses. Moreover, we have a great deal of information on the nature of these illnesses, which so far as it may be useful, should not be wasted.

I believe, furthermore, that in the analytical work which is to be done by the Health Department, our analytical staff, which has had a wider experience than any other group of investigators, can and should be used in the development of facilities and personnel in this extremely troublesome field of investigation. I can be of considerable service in making this help available, and at the same time, giving my own help as to certain matters connected with the sampling of materials for analysis. I mention these matters specifically, since our experience in dealing with them is far greater than that of any other group of persons in the United States. If such help is needed, it will be easily available; if it is not needed, no harm will have been done in mentioning it, since none of us here is interested in the building up of professional relationships in pursuit of any kind of credit or public recognition. The fact is, however, that there is a tendency to regard the analytical work on lead, especially for the quantitative measurement of lead in blood, as being a simple procedure which has been made easy to do, through the use of the atomic absorption equipment now readily available. The entire problem is of quite a different character than it has often been represented to be, and in consequence, the results obtained in various laboratories of the country are widely divergent and often unreliable. If, therefore, your Department expects to engage in analytical work of this type, the persons who are to do the work might best be trained for the purpose here. It is even possible that the analytical work should be done here, although I know nothing of present plans. I am no longer the Director of the Laboratory, nor am I responsible for this type of work, but I can help considerably in arranging for this type of help, since I have worked closely with the group in the Analytical Department of the Laboratory for many years and still continue to do so as an emeritus member of the staff.

Sincerely yours,

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