

February 4, 1965

L. Golberg, Director
The British Industrial
Biological Research Association
Woodmansterne Road
Carshalton
Surrey
England

Dear Doctor Golberg:

I have just replied to your letter of January 25th, but my reply has not been posted, and I hasten to include a note on the subject of your query of January 29. I took note of the article by Moncrieff and Clayton when it appeared, and have since had my attention drawn further to it by several persons here and abroad. It seems likely that I did not deal with it altogether effectively, but I wrote to Sir Alan and later, after his somewhat non-committal reply, I wrote to Barbara Clayton. I feel sure that neither of them understood fully the significance of my comments. Perhaps I was too gentle, or, perhaps, my letter and certain sharp remarks should have been addressed to the editor of the Archives for publication. In any case, I am not sure, at the moment, what if anything further I should do or say, and to whom or through what channels I should direct any further remark. The problem is that these authors have not had the experience, nor the familiarity with the literature, to write such an article as they attempted. Their work and their writing are full of faults, especially those relating to unfamiliarity with present knowledge of the subject. They, in common with a number of other writers on the subject of lead poisoning, have no proper appreciation of the quantitative aspects of exposure, dosage absorption, body burden and excretion. Their analytical procedures and their interpretations reflect this ignorance of the difference between precision and approximation. It is most unfortunate that this confusion should be introduced into this subject at the very time that it appears to be well on the way to elucidation in a number of important respects.

I shall consider your suggestion for writing a letter for publication. I cannot do so at the moment, for the reason that I have asked for advice on this in another direction, and

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until I receive it, I am hardly in a position to act. I shall do something soon, however, and I'll either follow your suggestion or let you know the alternative.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.

RAK:meh

NEB 80418

The British Industrial Biological Research Association

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Our reference: LG/LJB/Ed/4674
Your reference:

29th January, 1965.

Professor R.A. Kehoe,
Kettering Laboratory,
College of Medicine,
University of Cincinnati,
Cincinnati 19,
Ohio,
U.S.A.

Dear Professor Kehoe,

I wrote to you the other day concerning BHT, but omitted to mention another topic that may be of interest to you, namely the work on lead poisoning published by Moncrieff and Clayton of the Great Ormond Street Childrens Hospital in London. This has created an enormous furore in the press, radio, television and consumer circles. As a consequence, many of our industrial members have been seriously embarrassed by the measures taken over the minutest trace of lead present in plastic toys, when such lead is not extractable on chewing those toys. Furthermore, the panic over lead has resulted in the substitution of barium and cadmium. This has satisfied local Medical Officers of Health but, as you can imagine, makes me profoundly unhappy.

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I feel sure that you will agree with me that the paper which started all this was a thoroughly bad piece of work, and it is disgraceful that a reputable Journal should have given it such prominence. I am wondering whether you would care to let us have a letter on this subject for publication in our Bulletin and in "Food and Cosmetics Toxicology".

Thanking you in anticipation.

With warm regards,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "L. Golberg", with a horizontal line drawn underneath it.

L. Golberg.

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