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C O P Y

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The Children's Medical Center
300 Longwood Avenue
Boston

June 3, 1955

Mr. Manfred Bowditch
Lead Industries Association
420 Lexington Avenue
New York 17, N. Y.

Dear Manfred:

I have your letter of May 27th, and I am afraid that it did not occur to me to put all the data down about the diagnosis in the Chin child.

Nobody knows just when the onset of her disease was, as it was gradual, and the parents were sure in retrospect that the child had been poorly for some weeks before they brought her to us with clear-cut symptoms of encephalitis. In addition to encephalitis, she had anemia with many stippled cells, about as many as I have ever seen in a blood smear, coproporphyrinuria, and a very high output of lead on Versene. We got a 24-hour specimen when the child first came in, at which time she was critically ill. The output of lead then amounted only to 30 micrograms per 24 hours, but she seemed so ill that I felt that this level was probably not representative. I think only a small amount of very dilute urine, having a specific gravity of 1006, was excreted in the 24 hours. The next day we put her on Versene, and she put out 3000 micrograms of lead and kept it up at that rate for a number of days on Versene. Each course of Versene has resulted in slightly lower but still very pathological outputs of lead.

I am unable to say exactly what the level of lead in the mother's blood was. Dr. DuToit's laboratory reports that, spectroscopically, the mother's blood lead is at the upper limits of normal, and I have not been able to get them to give me any quantitative statement about it. The father is a student and usually eats at home, and he also does much of his working there too.

I still have a feeling that somewhere the orientals are holding out on us and that this baby has received medication of which we are not aware, but I don't know how to get at it any more thoroughly at this time. The family, who at first were quite ready to take the child out of the hospital to a witch doctor, have I think become quite fond of us lately and maybe in time we will get the answer.

Bone changes by x-ray were dubious.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Randy

Randolph K. Byers, M. D.

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