

June 8, 1934

Dr. O. M. Stern
The Delaware Hospital
14th and Washington Sts.,
Wilmington, Delaware

Dear Dr. Stern:

I have no doubt you have been impatient to hear the results of the examination of the samples which you sent some time ago. The urinary findings were completed some ten days ago, but the faecal sample gave us a great deal of difficulty because of its high bismuth content which had to be eliminated before the lead could be estimated. It is possible that a small amount of lead was lost in the process of removing the bismuth. If so, this was purely the result of entrainment and the amount must have been quite small. In any case, such an amount of lead in the stool has no diagnostic significance since amounts up to .25 or .3 mgs. per sample are within the normal limits.

The amounts of lead found in the urine are well within the normal limits so that there is no evidence at all of any occupational exposure to lead on the part of this man. This is what I would have expected from the history which you gave me on the man's occupation. However, I am glad to have developed the facts rather than to give you merely an opinion. On the other hand, in order to provide you with the basis on which my opinion was arrived at, I am sending you under separate cover a reprint which details certain studies we have made on individuals who have been exposed over the longest period of time in the handling of gasoline containing tetraethyl lead.

I feel both from the results of these analyses as well as from the consideration of the article which I am sending you, that you will have to consider some other cause for your patient's complaints.

Dr. O. M. Stern

In the matter of the charges, we are not in the habit of doing routine analyses for clinical purposes since this is primarily a research laboratory. We have done so from time to time, however, and it is our custom to make a charge of \$5.00 per analysis where this is not burdensome to the patient. I leave it entirely to your discretion as to whether this patient should be charged. If you do not feel that \$10.00 is a proper charge, I would suggest that you make no charge at all.

Very truly yours,

RAK:IS

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.

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