

January 9, 1936

Professor H. R. Kraybill	Professor J. C. Blair
Dr. F. L. Overley	Dr. Robert A. Kehoe
Dr. Laurence Greene	Professor B. S. Pickett
Dr. F. S. Howlett	Dr. J. H. Courley
Professor T. J. Talbert	Dr. E. E. Ware

I am attaching a copy of the talk that I gave recently at the Hartford meeting of the American Toxicological Society and a copy of a letter to Mr. R. G. Phillips, Secretary of the International Apple Association. I'm doing this in order to explain the present status of the proposed lead toxicity experiment. Professor Pickett has appointed a committee to raise the money, consisting of himself, Mr. Phillips, and me. We will attempt to finance the experiment with \$21,000 annually for three years, which would include enough for travelling by the research committee and others.

When Professor Pickett and I were in New York, Mr. Warner, Secretary of Lead Industries, Associated, suggested that we visit Dr. Aub and his associates at Harvard, where they have a \$10,000 fellowship for the physiological study of lead. We had a most delightful and instructive visit with Aub, Fairhall and Calhoun at the Huntington Memorial Hospital. From the standpoint of lead arsenate toxicity, what we found was very encouraging. For example, they are finding that lead arsenate is less toxic to animals than certain other forms of lead. This, of course, is unpublished work and therefore not quotable. I am not so sure, after talking with them, that the large-scale consumption of lead arsenate-sprayed apples that has been going on cannot be made an acceptable physiological experiment or demonstration. Calhoun told me that the Kettering Laboratory was the only one equipped for the work.

In my paper and in my letter to Phillips I have been very careful to avoid saying that I think that experimentation will show that the tolerance could be raised, because any statement to this effect would inevitably classify the experiment, in the minds of some people at least, as propaganda.

Mr. Phillips and I had a fine visit with Mr. Campbell, of the Food and Drug Administration, and I met Dr. Dunbar. Mr. Campbell said that they were starting work of their own, that they would prefer to keep their work and this proposed work separate, but that he was very anxious to secure any scientific evidence that would help to solve the problem, such as our experiment might easily provide.

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We also visited Dr. Roark and Dr. Strong, Chief of the Division of Entomology, to see whether a substitute for lead arsenate was an immediate prospect, which they assured us was not the case.

I might conclude my letter with the statement that I saw a great many people on my trip east and encountered only an reveal for the proposed experiment. Whether or not the finances will be forthcoming is another story.

Yours very truly,

W. A. Ruth

Chief in Ecological
Physiology

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