



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

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September 8, 1965

Dr. Robert A. Kehoe
University of Cincinnati
The Kettering Laboratory
College of Medicine
Eden Avenue
Cincinnati 19, Ohio

Dear Dr. Kehoe:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding our paper in Science 148: 1547, 1965, and our footnote #27 concerning tetraethyl lead.

I hasten to admit that it was an error. The error crept into one of the drafts and for some reason (perhaps because it was a footnote), none of the authors caught it.

Actually, a comedy of errors took place. An early copy stated that naphthylamine and tetraethyl tin were examples of substances that are converted in the body to more toxic substances, tetraethyl tin being converted to triethyl tin and naphthylamine to 1-hydroxyl-naphthylamine, a carcinogenic agent. Somehow, the tetraethyl tin became tetraethyl lead and both it and naphthylamine became converted to carcinogenic agents.

We apologize for the error and hope that it did not cause you any undue inconvenience.

Sincerely yours,

Bernard B. Brodie, Ph.D.
Chief, Laboratory of
Chemical Pharmacology
National Heart Institute

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