



COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, EDEN AND BETHESDA AVENUES
KETTERING LABORATORY
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

January 28, 1971

c/o Mrs. Geraldine Coughlin
1051 Francisco Street
San Francisco, California 94109

Kim Cramér, M.D., Ph.D.
Änggårdplatsen 4
S-41319 Göteborg, Sweden

Dear Cramér:

I have been engaged for some months - much too long a time I fear - in putting together, for publication, the papers forwarded to me by Malcolm, from the Conference in Amsterdam. But for a series of unavoidable interruptions, because of other professional duties, this task would have been completed long ago, and the material would have found itself in print. However, I've done the best I could and am now in the process of completing the job.

As I was when you and Mrs. Cramér visited us (and others) in the United States, I am now in San Francisco at the address indicated at the top of this page, and I may not have all of the material which was sent to me, although I thought I had assembled all I had. In any case, I lack the Figures to which reference is made in your manuscript, and I do not see how I can send in a manuscript for publication without them. I wonder, therefore, if you have copies of these Figures, and could send them to me promptly, while I go ahead with the last three (other) manuscripts.

It seems necessary also to ask one or two questions of you. Let me explain. In the first place, the Archives of Environmental Health does not publish papers that have been published elsewhere in its regular monthly issues, and they do not publish review and the proceedings of meetings, as such, except in special issues for which someone has to subsidize. I cannot put the Proceedings of this Conference together, therefore as the material was supplied to me, but must see that each paper is set forth in proper form, including the manner in which the Archives sets up the References, according to its merits. Three questions, therefore, arise: (1) Is the material in your paper with Selander published elsewhere?; (2) are there references in it to prior publications?; and are you agreeable to my editing the manuscript, as to matters of form, so as to ensure its acceptance by the Chief Editor? Certainly the paper as it is written is clear enough, so that I shall have no difficulty in expressing your views, and although I do not agree entirely with certain of them, I can, I believe, be trusted to present them fairly. It is simply of abiding by the formal editorial requirements of the Chief Editor. This can be done with but little further delay, if you trust me to do so.

As to the points of our possible disagreement, I think I should say, not with reference to this manuscript (which is yours), but to our mutual understanding of each other (since we can differ amiably, and leave the decision to the future test of time), that

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I distrust, in principle, the significance of the rate of excretion of ALA in the urine, as the better basis for the removal of men from exposure to lead, than that of the rate of the excretion of lead. I cannot yet bring myself to believe that this evidence of a response to the absorption of lead is in fact an indication of impending intoxication, quite to the extent that the rate of the absorption of lead, itself, above a certain point, is the greatest threat to the individual. There is, indeed, an excellent correlation between these two features of the process, but it seems to me, as a physiologist that the concentration of lead, the offending agent, is of more significance than a biological response, which suggests injury, but does not induce injury.

Be that as it may, you have expressed your view, and I shall portray your view as clearly as I can, and so far as possible in your own words. We shall see later, I hope, where the truth lies. Please let me hear from you promptly, and preferably at the address above, so as to save time, although only two extra days will be involved in your replying by way of Cincinnati.

With my kindest regards to yourself and Mrs. Cramér, and my very best wishes,

Sincerely,

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.
Professor Emeritus of
Occupational Medicine

RAK:wb

Dictated but not read

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