

October 15, 1952

Mr. Manfred Bowditch
Lead Industries Association
420 Lexington Avenue
New York City 17

Dear Manfred:

Before making many another reply to pending letters, I may now complete my exchanges with you.

First, in the reverse sequence of the dates of your letters, let me thank you for the clipping on the Panama City cases of lead poisoning. As I indicated in a prior letter, we were aware of this shortly after it occurred, and were, as usual, in the thick of the scramble to undo the results of a bad mistake in judgment, so far as that could be done. There is only one virtue - a not unqualified virtue - in these episodes, in that they add a bit to the margin of future safety, often at a cost of one or more lives.

Then, I am duly grateful for the book "Lead in Modern Industry," and I shall not detract from the amenities by making any caustic remarks. Actually, this is not the point at which the initiated should look for the best advice on industrial hygiene, with all due regard for your functions in the matter, and certainly the novice will not seek it there. I greatly appreciate having this source-book of useful information which is difficult to find elsewhere.

Your "cocklebur" letter draws little response from me except for the expression of thanks that I am so close to important sources of new information on the problems of differential diagnosis as they present themselves in the field of animal husbandry. I have passed this along to the veterinary member of our staff.

The letter which dates back to January would be barb in my conscience but for the fact that I recognized at the time of its receipt that I had no useful comment to make on the potentialities of Uranium salts and Germanium oxide as physiological antagonists to lead in the animal organism. The proposal has a somewhat unpleasant aroma.

As to the beneficial effects of "Laeverol," under the conditions described, little need be said of the rationale for the

KE 0014876

Mr. Manfred Bowditch - (2) - October 15, 1952

use of a remedy which is based on the highly dubious premise that the liver is an important site of early damage in lead poisoning, while the superior qualities of Laeverol in prophylaxis over those of milk put both of these in their proper place.

If, by any remarkable operation of chance, either of these procedures should turn out to be beneficial or to lead to some significant discovery, I shall be pleased to find myself discomfited by my recorded remarks.

Sincerely yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

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