

Lead Industries Association

420 LEXINGTON AVENUE

NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

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MANFRED BOWDITCH
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH AND SAFETY

June 14, 1955

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D., Director
Kettering Laboratory of Applied Physiology
University of Cincinnati
College of Medicine
Eden Avenue
Cincinnati 19, Ohio

Dear Bob:

You may be interested to note the enclosed from John Foulger
relative to the Australian foolishness.

I am still hoping to hear from you on this.

Sincerely,



MB:MM

C O P Y

E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Company
Wilmington 98, Delaware

June 3, 1955

Mr. Manfred Bowditch
Lead Industries Association
420 Lexington Avenue
New York 17, N. Y.

Dear Manfred:

Thank you for your letters of May 16 and 31.

With respect to the problem posed by the action of the Australian Federation of Organizations of the Blind, I can only say that, so far as I know and so far as I can gather from the literature, optic neuritis and severe fatal damage to the kidney are not common in recent years in lead poisoning and are not specific effects of such poisoning.

Perhaps the origin of this action of the Federation is explained by a quotation from Hamilton and Hardy, Industrial Toxicology, Second Edition, page 73:

"Perhaps the most striking evidence of a chronic nephritis following long after an acute attack of plumbism is to be found in the reports from Queensland, Australia. Early in the century Gibson (J. L., Plumbicocular neuritis in Queensland children. Brit. M. J., Vol. 2, page 1488, 1908) had reported many cases of plumbicocular neuritis among the children in this Australian state, 428 in a period in which only 1 and 4 occurred in other states. Gibson traced the poisoning to the white lead paint on the verandas where the children play, paint which under the very hot sun cracks and powders. The same conditions do not exist in the other Australian states. Some years later it was found that deaths from chronic nephritis in people between 10 and 40 years of age of both sexes were strikingly more frequent in Queensland hospitals than in those of other states, 1070 per 800,000 population against 449, 368, and 344 in three other states. (Nye, L. J. J., An investigation of the extraordinary incidence of chronic nephritis in young people in Queensland. (M. J. Australia Vol. 2, page 144, 1929)."

This is very old data subject to all the deficiencies of investigation in 1908 and 1929. Modern information would hold no justification for such action as that proposed by the Australian Federation.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ John H. Foulger, M. D.

John H. Foulger, M. D.
Director of Medical Research

JHF/cmb

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