

February 23, 1939

McEldowney
Corporation
Phila.
Pa.

Dear Mr. McEldowney:-

Please accept my thanks
response to my letter concerning
This case might well result in
I think we may find it necessary
to make a careful investigation. Before entering
directly into the matter, however, it may be wise
for us to obtain certain items of further information
through your office.

I should like very much to
know where and by whom the lead analysis on the blood
was made, what method of analysis was used and what
the results actually were. It seems likely that you
can obtain such information for me without in any way
calling into question or criticising the results, or that
you can make such contact for me at the University of
Pennsylvania as will enable me to obtain this information.

My reasons for wanting this
information are that so far as the correspondence shows,
the only diagnostic evidence of lead poisoning was the
lead analysis. In our rather wide experience, it is
common to find that such analyses are not made properly
or that the samples were not collected with such care
as to avoid contamination. This is especially true of
samples of blood, and in the case of a man in this type
of employment, I do not believe that the blood actually
contained significantly large quantities of lead to be
definitely indicative of lead poisoning. As a matter
of fact, I do not believe his blood lead was abnormal
at all, unless some unusual and unknown factor of lead
exposure existed. We need, therefore, such information
as will enable us to evaluate the analytical results.

My reason for wishing to
remain in the background at present is that I should
not want to stir up an awkward situation if indeed,
your employee has largely recovered and if he is in no
anxiety about himself. These technical matters can

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Frequently stir up unfortunate medical controversies and I do not want to be responsible for such a controversy unless it is necessary. Actually there has been so much trouble in cases of this type where inexperienced persons have made analyses of this type and have obtained incorrect results, that I am disposed to proceed very cautiously. I shall wait your advice, therefore, before making any move in this instance.

Very truly yours,

WAK:ls

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.