

May 18, 1939

Dr. J. Edward Hershberger
1901 Salem Avenue
Dayton, Ohio

Dear Doctor Hershberger:

In reply to your letter of May 11th, I have seen no reason for believing that there is any interaction between benzol poisoning and lead poisoning. I can conceive of a case in which the combination of these two toxic substances at the same time would produce more disastrous results than either alone, but I have never seen such a case. As to the possible relationship between a case of lead poisoning at age twenty and a case of benzol poisoning at age fifty-two, I can not conceive of any connection whatsoever. One who has been poisoned with lead at age twenty, will not have any quantity of lead in his body greater than the normal level at age fifty-two. It is quite beyond any doubt that lead does not remain stored in the body for any such period of time, and there is, so far as I can see, no way by which a subsequent benzol poisoning could be influenced by a previous lead poisoning with such an interval of time intervening. Obviously certain sequelae of lead poisoning may persist for an indefinite period of time. In my experience these sequelae are almost exclusively nervous or neuro-muscular in character, that is paralysis, paresis, or cerebral disturbances. I do not see how such sequelae would be influenced by a subsequent episode of benzol intoxication.

If I could be of any assistance to you in answering certain specific questions with relation to the diagnosis, I should be pleased to do so.

Cordially yours,

RAK:18

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.