

Division of Industrial Medicine
Department of Preventive Medicine
The Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia
10 25 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, Penn.
July 11, 1958

Dr. Heinrich Brieger, Professor of Industrial Medicine
Department of Pediatrics and Preventive Medicine
Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia 1025 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dear Brieger:

In reading the paper of Robinson et al published in the May issue of Pediatrics (1958) I was surprised, in connection with the discussion of the normal range of the lead concentration in the blood and the partition of lead between erythrocytes and plasma, to find no reference to the extensive work of this Laboratory on both matters. I am not finding fault with the discussion and references from the aspect of credit, but rather from that of the failure of the primary author to call attention to previously established facts. It would seem that the available evidence as to the normal range of values in the adult (unfortunately we have published little of our more recent information on the child) should have included our data as a trustworthy source of information.

It is true, of course, that we have worked much and published sparingly, but I should have thought that Robinson would have seen Bambach's paper on "The Plasma - Cell Partition of Blood Lead", with its extensive investigation of the behavior of lead in the blood of rabbits, and its slight but relevant data on the blood of adult men. Perhaps he regarded the latter too slight in evidence as to human blood for reference, but this was inserted only to show that the same situation so thoroughly investigated in the rabbit had application, in all likelihood, to man in view of the citation of the evidence on human blood already obtained, examples of which had been published (Kehoe, Cholak and Story. J. Nutrition, 19: 579, 1940). The latter article might well have escaped Robinson's attention, but it has been referred to in several of our publications in more readily available journals, as in "Experimental Studies on the Ingestion of Lead Compounds J. I.H. and T, 22: 400 (Bibliography) 1940.

I call this to your attention, rather than to Robinson's, out of courtesy, since I take it that he is associated with you, and that you would wish to call these matters to his attention, as his senior, in view of your own care to know what is in the

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literature on a subject which you undertake to discuss.

This is not to suggest that the work reported in this article is not first-class or pertinent, in itself, in considering these matters in relation to children. Moreover, I was pleased to note the reference to the pioneering and precise work of Willoughby on the lead in blood, especially because it is so often omitted in the references of others on this subject.

Sincerely yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.

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