

May 18, 1944

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Johnson Bronze Company,
New Castle,
Pennsylvania.

Attention: Mr. H. R. Bryant

Dear Mr. Bryant:

I send you herewith the analytical results obtained on [REDACTED]. This result, as you can see, is well above the safe limit and is indicative of recent significant exposure to lead on the part of this employee.

In accordance with your telegram of May 13, I am sending you an additional report on the results obtained on the blood of [REDACTED]. This result was reported to you, and an account was attached on May 9, 1944. The result is within the dangerous zone of blood lead concentration and is indicative of recent significant lead exposure.

The above results can be considered as compatible with the existence of symptoms and the diagnosis of lead poisoning. They are not necessarily proof of the existence of any illness due to lead.

I think I should comment on the fact that we are not receiving information on any of these samples which enables us to interpret them in a proper manner. We are, therefore, not giving you the kind of help that we should be giving you, by reason of this lack of adequate information. I pointed out this situation to you at the time of our last conference and indicated my willingness to go along with you for a time in the hope that you might find a means of working out a suitable arrangement that would give me the necessary information at the right time. It appears that it has not been possible to do this up to the present. We have received a sort of report on [REDACTED] on a form which is entitled "Report of Examination for Evidence of Lead Absorption." I presume that this report is an attempt on your part to meet my recommendations. We have only received it in this one case, so that if it is your intention to have this form give me the proper information, you will recognize that it is not serving its purpose. I should like to point out that the report itself as made out in the Cupido case does not give much useful information. Unless a report of this sort is made out with care, and unless it contains the necessary information, it will continue to be a mere matter of form and will not be of any use. For this reason, I think I should comment on its shortcomings.

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the report starts out with the name, age, present occupation, and race of the employee, and it continues by giving his length of service in each job. So far, so good. It omits the date on which the man last worked, which is a matter of information which is absolutely necessary to know. In the case of this man, for example, it is stated that symptoms are as noted on April 25, but nothing is said that would permit one to know whether he continued at work or whether he has been off part or all of the time since the onset of these symptoms. The information about previous illnesses is of some interest, but it has nothing to do with the interpretation of the present analytical findings. The same is true in reference to general health and habits. The tabular information on the lower half of the page is entirely useless for the purposes of interpreting the analytical results, since it gives no information whatever on when the symptoms described occurred. This is headed at the top with this curious question, "Have you ever suffered any of the following symptoms?" Unfortunately, the answer to this does not tell one anything about the present illness. If this refers to present symptoms, it should be so indicated on the report. In this instance the lack of any further information on the back of the report leaves one in utter darkness as to the relationship of any of these symptoms to the man's present condition.

I hope you will be able to get your situation straightened out in such a way that the information we are giving you will be mutually useful. I fear at present it is not serving a very useful purpose either for the Johnson Bronze Company or for ourselves. I will continue for a time in the hope that this situation can be improved. However, I must warn you that I shall not be able to continue much longer, unless we have some evidence that progress is being made. At present we are both going through the motions of doing things that have very little usefulness.

With reference to the account, you are well aware of the fact that I am not troubled about this. On the other hand, I think it would be well if you were to adopt some regular system of paying for the work from time to time. We do not like to keep books on these things, and for that reason we send out a bill with each set of analyses in order that we may not have to make any further check. If the bills are not assembled at your end and paid periodically, we are put to the necessity of checking back through our laboratory reports in order to make up a new invoice, as we were required to do the last time. This can be done, of course, but it takes time which we need for other purposes. I trust, therefore, that this will be handled automatically and without the necessity of our making up any further invoices.

Very truly yours,

RAK ef -
Enc.

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

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