

August 5, 1963

H. E. Stokinger, Ph.D.
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U. S. Public Health Service
1014 Broadway St.
Cincinnati 2, Ohio

Dear Herb:

The document enclosed herewith is an interesting one in a number of respects, as much for its faults as for its virtues, for it is a fine representation of the state of mind of certain physicians in the lead using industries, and the means by which this state of mind has been partially reeducated within these specific industrial medical circles. Dr. Daly has come a long way, but he is still talking about and accepting views that have been discarded (because of controverting evidence) for twenty years more or less. He is not a student of the subject, and he has no idea how to go about becoming one.

I have no idea where such an essay as this might be published, certainly not in any of our present journals. It contributes nothing that is new to the science or art of medicine, except for physicians in the lead-using industries who are some years (or decades) behind Dr. Daly, and it carries on and tends to perpetuate some old fallacies. As a history of certain scientific and social developments in certain old, established lead trades, and the slow rate of the penetration of ideas into industrial medical circles of these trades, this is an interesting and highly revealing account. Unfortunately, this does not portray the low level, for Dr. Daly is a good cut above many of his older colleagues in this field. From the historical and documentary viewpoint, the bibliography attached to this paper is an interesting exhibit.

I can see no prospect for the publication of this article except as a privately printed report, dealing with matters of interest mainly to antiquarians, or to persons like myself, who like to understand what goes on and has gone on in the lead trades generally in terms of the thinking of the persons in influential positions within these trades. The things of virtue in the article could be extracted by a knowledgeable person and put in two or three pages of printed material. It is the manner of speaking, and the revelation of the thought processes of the good doctor, that make of this an intriguing historical document.

There is no doubt of course, that these people have done a pretty

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good technical job, in so far as industrial hygiene is concerned. That is, they have certainly found means of preventing lead poisoning. One could argue, that with this result, there is less need to have a sound understanding of the nature of the behavior of lead, including the character and mechanism of lead poisoning; that the principal point is the prevention of the disease. Certainly the means by which this was done could well be described simply and pertinently, and this, I think, despite its lack of novelty, would be useful.

Sincerely yours,

RAK:vr

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.

Encl. - "Control of Lead Poisoning in the Smelting Industry" by
J. Stuart Daly, B.A., M.D., C.E.

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