

October 28, 1936

Dr. F. W. Porro, Director
St. Lawrence County Laboratory
A. Barton Hepburn Hospital
Ogdensburg, New York

Dear Dr. Porro:

Please accept my thanks for your letter of October 17th. I shall send a copy of our results to Mr. Maxwell of the Standard Oil Company of New York, and I dare say he will make report to the Commission. However, I have no objection to your sending the results to them at any time you may wish to do so.

I think you are probably right in pointing out that certain variations in the results in the same tissues may be due to slight variations in the method. Actually we have found that the Dithizone method as we are now handling it, tends to give results somewhat higher than those obtained by the Spectrographic method. This is the result of certain imperfections in the procedure at present due largely to the size of the blank. We have no reason to believe that these imperfections may not be eliminated, and in fact they have been in dealing with certain types of samples. However, where one is dealing with materials which may have been contaminated, it is quite possible to obtain uneven results since the contaminant is rarely evenly distributed through the material.

I am sure that if we could be of any service to you in making an occasional analysis of either tissues or excreta, we should be happy to do so. Obviously we do not make it a point to carry on any considerable burden of routine work of a diagnostic character, but considering the difficulties of lead analyses, we are quite willing to do them from time to time under suitable conditions. The greatest difficulty in these cases, however, is to obtain materials that have been so handled as to certainly avoid slight contamination.

Cordially yours,

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Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.