

September 18, 1952

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Dear Tony:

In hasty and inadequate reply to your letter of September 16 on the administration of EDTA (hastily because of the arrival of your note this afternoon, and the necessity of my going East tomorrow to be gone for over a week), I can give you, incompletely, the results of our experience here in two instances.

Two infants in the Children's Hospital here were treated, - or the attempt has been made to treat them - shortly after I discussed the matter with members of their staff, providing them with the information furnished to me by Dr. George Maisson and Dr. Fenn Poole. Full reports are not available to me, (they will be later), but the physician who maintains liaison between the Children's Hospital and ourselves on lead poisoning reported verbally, that both children reacted very badly to the initial dose. In the one instance on which the most information was given me, there were rather prompt and alarming changes in vascular and intracranial pressures and cessation of respiration. Heroic measures were necessary to save the life of the child immediately.

I know little of the reaction of the other child, and I'll be interested in reviewing the facts in both instances when I get them, for there may be factors that need looking at further, but the present situation is that no member of the staff of the Children's Hospital is willing to repeat the experience.

Doctor Kotte, a good pediatrician, is on the staff of the Children's Hospital, who has worked with us and knows about this situation. He was prompt to convey his attitude to Manfred, with whom he has been in correspondence lately on several matters.

We have used the preparation in adult cases of tetraethyl lead poisoning without difficulty. I cannot report yet on the effects with any degree of accuracy. However, I am considerably less enthusiastic about the likely benefits than are some of our colleagues. We shall continue to investigate.

Do not take this information as in any way final or adequate, but

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I share with Doctor Kotte some reservation in recommending the preparation for the treatment of lead encephalopathy in the child. It is a tricky disease in the child, and caution is necessary, if only not to give a black eye to a remedy that may be useful.

Sincerely yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

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