

April 17, 1964

Harold Jacobziner, M.D.
Assistant Commissioner
Department of Health
City of New York
125 Worth Street
New York 13, New York

Dear Doctor Jacobziner:

Your form letter of March 12 concerning accidents in childhood came to me indirectly from the Department of Sociology and Anthropology (John A. Winget, Ph.D.) of the University of Cincinnati, and I am impelled to make some reply, rather than to allow the impression to be arrived at that nothing of moment has been done about the problem to which you refer in professional circles in Cincinnati.

The problem with which the American Academy of Pediatrics has been concerned is, of course of nation-wide importance, as it has been encountered in Cincinnati, or perhaps I should say, as it has been appraised in Cincinnati from the aspect of preventive action, has been much more concerned with intoxications, rather than with accidents as those are usually defined. It is, of course, a matter of chance (or of accident) that a child gains access to poisons of various types in the household. The procedure here, for years has been that of the investigation of cases, and the development of the mechanisms of a poison center, the attempted dissemination of information through various available avenues, together with legislative action on the part of the City Council, directed especially at the problem of lead poisoning (limitations of use of lead-containing paint, labeling, and authorization of condemnation proceedings: tested in the City Department of Health, against dangerous premises).

A loosely coordinated effort has been participated in by the City Health Department, the Pediatrics Department and the Department of Preventive Medicine and Industrial Health of the Medical College, the Academy of Medicine of Cincinnati, and others, in bringing these matters to the attention of the public, and in providing information and advice. The effort has not been as completely successful as it might be, if it were to have the concentrated and full-time attention and guidance of a responsible professional official, but it has made favorable progress.

Harold Jacobziner, M.D. - April 17, 1984 - page 2

The educational efforts of this Department (graduate professional training of physicians and engineers in occupational and environmental health) have been directed toward the entire spectrum of environmental problems, rather than being concentrated on accident prevention. This does not mean, we believe, that the latter has been neglected, but that it has been consigned to its proper place in the general scheme of environmental health.

Cordially yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.

PAK:abb

VF

0001000