

January 31, 1944

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Mr. George H. Detweiler,
2518-27 Lewis Tower,
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Dear Mr. Detweiler:

I am sorry I was not here when you wrote to me on November 18. However, finally I have returned to my desk and I am glad to give you such assistance as I can.

I think you will find very little information on the subject that is troubling you. There is a general impression that lead poisoning is particularly dangerous in the case of a man who has active tuberculosis. I would be inclined to agree with this general point of view, although I have very few facts with which to support my opinion. On the other hand, I can see no good reason for assuming that lead poisoning will excite a latent tuberculosis.

The best thing I can do at the present time is to refer you to such available sources of information as I am aware of. First, let me call your attention to a report on "Occupational Lead Exposure and Lead Poisoning," which can be obtained at a cost of 75 cents, from the Office of the American Public Health Association, 1790 Broadway, New York City 19.

There are a number of references to the unfavorable influence of various occupations on tuberculosis in the German literature. I am sending you references to these, although I suspect you will not find them very useful. Most of these are referred to as having been abstracted in the Journal of Industrial Hygiene (indicated on the attached sheet as J.I.H.). You will be able to find this journal in a good medical library, and since such a library is available, no further information on these articles is necessary. I suspect that the one article which is most likely to be useful to you is the one mentioned under the heading of Trudeau School of Tuberculosis. I believe you will be able to obtain a copy of the report of this symposium from the Saranac Laboratory for the study of Tuberculosis. In this connection, the director of the Laboratory, Dr. Leroy Gardner, is perhaps the best informed man in this country on this subject, and I think you might write to him, asking him substantially

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- Hergt, W.: Does the chemical industry involve occupational risk and injuries that influence unfavorably the development and progress of tuberculosis (experiments with rabbits poisoned with lead nitrate), Zentralbl. f. Gewerbehyg., 3:10, 1926. Abst. in J.I.H., 9:7, 1927
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