

LEAD INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION

~~220 Lexington Avenue~~ 60 EAST 42ND STREET

New York 17, N. Y.

MANFRED BOWDITCH
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH AND SAFETY

September 14, 1956

Mr. Francis B. Elder
Engineering Associate
American Public Health Association
1790 Broadway
New York 19, New York

Dear Mr. Elder:

Referring to our telephone conversation this morning, I am very glad that you will take up with Dr. Malcolm Merrill, Chairman of your Committee on Research and Standards, the matter of possible revision (or issuance of a supplement to) your publication "Occupational Lead Exposure and Lead Poisoning."

Though this little book is still the best brief compendium on its subject that I know of, and as such continues to be distributed from this office, it is now deficient in two respects, one of which is of very real importance.

I refer primarily to the absence of any reference to the "CaEDTA" treatment for lead poisoning, which has now been in use for some six years and has proved itself of outstanding value when administered by physicians having an understanding of its usefulness and its limitations. The possibilities of its misuse are, however, such as to be a subject of continuing concern to those of us who deal daily with problems of plumbism.

I ask your attention in this connection to the 1955 A.M.A. report by Dr. Kehoe of which a copy is herewith. To further illustrate the spread of this problem, both chronologically and geographically, copies of an earlier publication and two quite recent ones are also enclosed. These are but a few of what are now literally hundreds of published references to EDTA, copies of a number of which are available from this office on request.

The other of the two shortcomings referred to above is the lack of any mention of the so-called coproporphyrin test for lead absorption. While a subject of far less importance than is that of EDTA, its usefulness as a screening test under certain circumstances is such as to render its omission from a publication purporting to cover the broad subject of industrial plumbism a rather regrettable deficiency.

If I can be further helpful in the above connection, I hope you will let me know.

Sincerely yours,



MB:GW
Enclosures
cc: Dr. Kehoe

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