

January 12, 1933

Mr. F. E. Wormser
Lead Industries Association
420 Lexington Avenue
New York City
New York

Dear Mr. Wormser:

I am not quite sure that I understand the implications in your letter of January 3rd, in which you ask for a definition of lead poisoning. I was not aware that there was any question about the definition, and thus I wonder just what you are trying to get at in raising the question. From my point of view, it would be entirely satisfactory to describe lead poisoning as an intoxication produced by lead. If, on the other hand, you are trying to get at a diagnostic description of lead poisoning which excludes every other possibility, then I must say you are in for trouble. There is no sign or group of signs or symptoms which delimit lead intoxication, so far as I am aware. One may establish a reasonable diagnosis based on the three points: (1) history of exposure to lead; (2) proof of exposure within the significant range, through lead analyses of the excreta, blood or tissues; and (3) the existence of symptoms and signs characteristic of lead intoxication.

Perhaps I mis-understood your question. If so, I should be glad to give you any information which I can if you will make clear just what you wish.

Very truly yours,

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