

October 6, 1939

Dr. Elston L. Belknap
231 West Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Dear Doctor Belknap:

Your letter of September 30th as well as the samples on [REDACTED] came during my absence from the laboratory. The samples have been analyzed and I am sending you herewith a report on them, together with my interpretation of the results. We shall follow your suggestion and send the bill to the Hardware Mutual Casualty Company.

Quoted

With reference to your comments, I should say that I quite agree with you as to the greater importance of the urinary findings as compared with those on the blood. As I demonstrated to you the other day, the urinary response to lead absorption is both more prompt and more definite than the blood. The blood levels, in other words, do not change quite as much proportionately as do the urinary levels as the result of lead exposure. The chief advantage, in my opinion, in the blood analyses lies in just such a case as you have brought to our attention here. In this instance you were able to obtain a sample of blood directly by your own technique in such a way as to satisfy yourself that no opportunity for contamination occurred. At the same time you were able to obtain a small sample of urine under your direct supervision so that here too there was no opportunity for contamination. The results on the analyses are in complete agreement and are, therefore, mutually supporting, and as such are more valuable than any one result. If one of them had been high and the other low, we might have had reason to suspect that one or the other was in error either as the result of contamination of the samples in process of collection, or from some mistaken procedure in handling. As it is, one can not entertain any doubt as to the representative character of the two samples since they have both given the same physiological significance to the interpretation of this clinical problem.

The needles which we use in taking samples of blood have been manufactured our

order by the Max Woehner Sons Company of Cincinnati. They will be willing to duplicate this order for anyone else, I dare say. However, considering the small number they have made and the necessity of special fabrication, they are quite expensive; indeed in my opinion, somewhat more expensive than they should be.

Generally speaking, we can not place ourselves in the position of doing routine diagnostic work, for reasons which I take it are quite obvious to you. On the other hand we do not know any laboratory near at hand to which we can send samples for analysis with any hope of obtaining reliable results. We use our own discretion and judgment in accepting cases of this kind since we can not avoid some feeling of responsibility for making proper diagnostic procedures available where they are required.

Cordially yours,

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Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.

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