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the time and
putting it
back

Sub-Dept. of Industrial Health,
Institute of Hygiene,
THE UNIVERSITY,
GLASGOW, W. 2
TEL. WESTERN 3901.

12th December, 1946.

Robert A. Kehoe, Esq., M.D.,
Director,
Kettering Laboratory of
Applied Physiology,
College of Medicine,
University of Cincinnati,
Ohio, U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Kehoe,

I trust you will forgive me writing to you without any introduction on the subject of lead poisoning, but your reputation as an authority in this field is such that I should welcome your views on a particular aspect of the problem.

The Sub-Department of Industrial Health of this University has recently been concerned with the problem of lead poisoning arising among shipbreakers using oxy-acetylene burners on heavily leaded ships' plates, and we have been consulted on the matter in an advisory capacity. Obviously it would be desirable to carry out routine haematological blood examinations, but the casual nature of this employment renders this extremely difficult in practice. We are therefore attempting to attack the problem along the lines of improving the operative technique and diminishing the hazard to the workers. One advance which we think we shall be able to put into practice is the introduction of pneumatic chisels which can shear the ~~paint~~ off the plates fairly quickly, and thus present a surface with only traces of lead open to the flame of the burner. We are also considering the use of strip explosives to replace the oxy-acetylene burning in the cutting of the plates, but it looks at this stage as though such a technique would be uneconomic.

It occurred to me that in the United States you might be facing a similar problem, as shipbreaking is likely to be carried on there on a large scale during the next few years just as is the case here. I should be most grateful if you could suggest any way of reducing or eliminating the occurrence of lead poisoning in this industry.

Yours sincerely,

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Tom Rogan (ROGAN)

Lecturer in Industrial Medicine.