

June 22, 1940

Dr. J. N. M. Chalmers
The Royal Infirmary
University of Manchester
Manchester
Great Britain

Dear Doctor Chalmers:

Please accept my thanks
for the reprints which you sent to me recently.

I am happy to comply
with your request that I send you some of our
reprints. Some additional articles are in press
and I will put your name on our list so that these
will be sent to you when they are available.

We have not studied the
porphyrins in relation to lead absorption and lead
excretion. We have done a considerable amount of work
in the correlation of stippled cell counts and urinary
lead values. Roughly our results indicate that there is
a considerable variability in the stippled cell counts
of normal individuals, that there is also a considerable
variability in the same individual at different seasons
of the year, and that groups of persons abnormally ex-
posed to lead compounds show increases in their mean
stippling in approximate accordance with the magnitude
of their lead exposure. In our experience there is a
considerable variability among individuals in their
response to lead exposure. Therefore we have found it
impractical to depend upon stippling as an indication
of the magnitude of lead exposure of individuals. On
the other hand groups of men with rather widely divergent
degrees of lead exposure differentiate themselves obviously
from each other on the basis of the mean number of stippled
cells per unit volume of blood for the group.

One of the reasons we have
not interested ourselves in the porphyrins up to the
present is that we have been concerned chiefly with the
earliest evidences of lead intoxication. In as much as

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hematopoetic stimulation occurs well in advance of evidences of blood destruction, we have not felt that the study of the porphyrins would be especially useful to us in our line of experimental work.

Cordially yours,

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Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.

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