

February 11, 1948

Mr. Manfred Bowditch,
c/o Lead Industries Association,
420 Lexington Avenue,
New York City 17.

Dear Manfred:

I heard from you indirectly from George Bowditch during the Christmas Holidays and I have seen recently the release of information concerning your new appointment, by the Secretary of the Lead Industries Association. I need not explain to you why I am interested in this development. First, I hasten to congratulate you on having undertaken a very much needed and significant job. I feel that the Lead Industries Association is to be congratulated in having manifested, through your appointment, a sincere and effective interest in the improvement of the hygienic conditions in the affiliated lead industries. There is great need for improvement, as you probably know. In my opinion, you will find that the need is very much greater than you ever suspected. However, I leave that to time, since I know full well that you would not have undertaken a job of this sort unless you had reason to believe that you would be able to accomplish something very much worth while. Over a goodly number of years I have been deeply interested in bringing about more effective control of lead exposure, both in the community at large, but more particularly in the lead trades. My impression is that these industries, by and large, have not taken full advantage of the available information that now enables satisfactory control to be achieved. I should like to see the lead trades generally brought into such a state that we could say and demonstrate that this hygienic problem had largely been solved. It is entirely possible to do this, and I hope that the lead industries will not wait until the state of society and the attitude of organized labor compel them to do what they could have done with great profit to themselves and to the community, at a much earlier time. I am sure that you will realize that my interest in this subject will prompt me to give any aid and assistance to you that I may be capable of, and that you may wish.

With kindest regards and best wishes for your success and happiness in your new work, I am

Sincerely yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

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