

March 9, 1939

Mr. Philip Drinker  
Journal of Industrial Hygiene  
55 Shattuck Street  
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Drinker:-

I am sending you herewith the review of Dr. Williams' article on Chronic Lead Poisoning in accordance with your request of March 6th.

You will find that this is not precisely an abstract. It is, in fact, a somewhat unusual review, but I have studied the article carefully and there are a number of facts in it which compel me to be entirely honest and straight forward in my criticism of it. It is in many ways an unfortunate article for it confuses the issues discussed instead of clarifying them. My own opinions are somewhat mixed in that I do not find it possible to accept the analytical results of Dr. Flinn since my previous experience with his analyses have convinced me of their complete unreliability, and in as much as the results obtained at the Neurologic Institute are not quoted and since they too come from a source which I have had no previous reason for trusting, I find myself very doubtful of the correctness of the original diagnosis. This, obviously, can not be stated in a review in these terms.

If I grant the correctness of the diagnosis and if I accept the analytical results as essentially correct, I am compelled to recognize that Dr. Williams' investigation of the source of his exposure was inadequate. This all comes from the preparation of an article on a subject in which the author does not know his way around. Very obviously I would not wish to say this publicly since the respect with which I hold Dr. Williams would not permit such an affront.

In this situation I am disposed to wish that you had not asked me to abstract the article although I could not refuse to comply with your request.

However since this article will undoubtedly raise more notice than it deserves, and since my review will probably only heighten the notice which it receives, I should feel that it might be well not to publish a review or an abstract of it at all. Accordingly you have my permission to consign my review to the waste-basket, although naturally you are at liberty to make use of it if you wish to do so.

Cordially yours,

RAK:is

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.