

February 10, 1953

Dr. Charles E. Jackson
Caylor-Nickel Clinic
303 South Main Street
Bluffton, Indiana

Dear Doctor Jackson:

The problem stated in your brief note of February 5 is not a new or strange one. Most men recover spontaneously when removed from exposure to lead, and without sequelae. The disease is essentially self limited, and I personally have not observed that any specific type of therapy has influenced materially the progress of recovery. The relief of immediate symptoms, especially that of colic, can be accomplished in a variety of ways. I have not seen any remarkable benefit from sodium citrate therapy.

Unfortunately some patients continue to have difficulties, which I think are over-emphasized by a variety of circumstances, but particularly by apprehension and failure to return to work as soon as their symptoms subside. This is augmented by one's wish to have them avoid further exposure of the same type that caused their illness. That is, their working life is interrupted, and the consequences of this are very serious. Only rarely is there good reason to believe that the disease still exists in any very significant form, after a period of freedom from exposure. In these cases one is dealing, usually, with persistent high levels of lead content in the tissues, as the result of unduly prolonged severe exposure to lead.

I suggest the desirability of establishing by analysis of blood and urine, the status of your patient, with reference to lead absorption. I think when this has been done you will be in better position to know what to do. I assume that this has not been done. If you so desire, we can send containers and instructions for obtaining the samples. If then you would send me the full story of this case and the clinical information, I might be able to give some useful advice.

Cordially yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

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Dictated but not read.

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