

March 18, 1963

Albert Heyman, M.D.
Department of Medicine
Duke University Medical Center
Durham, North Carolina

Dear Doctor Heyman:

I am sending today under separate cover a series of reprints and a copy of The Harben Lectures. The latter tend to summarize the information which has been published in bits from time to time, but the reprints have some additional items and may be useful.

With respect to the encephalopathic type of plumbism, our clinical experience (mostly at secondhand in collaboration with our friends in pediatrics) has been limited mostly to this disease in children. While tetraethyllead poisoning, of which we have had a wide experience, is always encephalopathic, it is something other than cerebral lead poisoning from the absorption of the inorganic compounds of lead. At least, it appears to be different, and therefore, should not be taken to be the same.

It is interesting that you should have had so apparently high an incidence of encephalopathy among your patients. I doubt the importance of the associated partial intoxication with alcohol as a contributory factor. Rather I would think of this as being an expression of the severity of the absorption of lead. The dose may be very large under these circumstances and I think of encephalopathy in terms of a high concentration of lead in the brain, and the speed with which this high concentration has been attained.

You will note the concentration of lead in the tissues of the fatally poisoned child, including that in the brain, as illustrated in the last of the Harben Lectures.

I'll get as much information as I can for you from the Internal Revenue Service, and send it along in due course.

I should be very skeptical of the results obtained by the analyses of human tissues that have been preserved in the usual manner for some time. They will almost certainly have been contaminated with lead. However, they might be worth a preliminary look to see what could be obtained.

Albert Heyman, M.D.

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The costs of which I spoke, for our own purposes, lies in the analytical procedures. It costs us approximately \$10.00 per sample of tissue, blood or urine which we analyse, without reference to correspondence, interpretation and reporting. This, as you may appreciate, runs up, and our only recourse is to charge such analyses to some one, or to dip into funds earmarked for specific items of research. The latter is not quite cricket.

Sincerely yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

RAK:ss

Enclosures sent by separate mail:

1 (hard-cover) copy of The Harben Lectures
Experimental Studies of the Ingestion of Lead Compounds
A Spectrochemical Study of the Normal Ranges of Concentration
of Certain Trace Metals in Biological Materials
Exposure to Lead
Lead Poisoning in Children and its Therapy with EDTA
EDTA Therapy in persons with excessive lead absorption
from industrial exposure
Responses of Human Subjects to Lead Compounds
Pure and Applied Chemistry
The Hygienic Aspects of the Production and use of Lead
Antiknock Compounds