

May 7, 1946

Dr. George B. Wallace,
Managing Editor,
The Journal of Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics,
477 First Avenue,
New York City 16.

Dear Dr. Wallace:

Having considered your letter of April 3 to Dr. Deichmann concerning his article on DDT, I am disposed to advise him to withdraw the article. Looking at the matter from the aspect of burying useful data, I think it fair to say that what has now been published, together with what is to appear shortly from other sources, will serve the purpose very well. I refer specifically to the information on the nervous mechanisms, which is left in a somewhat uncertain state by Dr. Deichmann's experiments, whereas I believe it has been clarified to some degree by work soon to be published.

It is a disappointment to Dr. Deichmann, I know, not to publish an article on this intriguing subject, especially when his results on toxicity and general action were available in time for publication among the first that appeared. It is here that his work was of greatest significance. However, I do not consider that this justifies repetition of publication for the sake of confirmation, and on the other hand, there is not enough that is new and original in any fundamental sense, to make an entirely separate paper. That, I believe, is what you and your board have been trying to say.

I may say that I do not agree with certain of the specific criticisms, and especially the tentative conclusions drawn from Deichmann's evidence that the primary site of action of DDT is on the mid-brain. I don't know that one can determine a primary site by any such experiments as were undertaken. However, I should not feel the issue is worth more than passing mention.

If my advice to Deichmann is not in agreement with your own opinion, I should be glad if you would say so, but if I have interpreted the position correctly, I will act accordingly.

Cordially yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

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