

October 19, 1931

Dr. E. M. Freese,
327 East State Street,
Columbus, Ohio

Dear Doctor Freese:

In the absence of Doctor Kehoe I am answering your inquiry of recent date. Also am enclosing some pamphlets giving the distribution of lead in the various tissues of the body.

As to cases manifesting central nervous system involvement I might say briefly that under proper conditions and taken into the body in sufficient quantity lead will be found in the central nervous system in varying amounts with a resulting encephalopathy depending on the amount of lead in the tissue. Here a more or less permanent fixation occurs which accounts for our inability to adequately treat this type of case and the poor prognosis. While a considerable number of these cases result fatally others may partially recover with residuals such as a lowered mentality, insanity, or as in your case epileptiform seizures. Since in this type of case all laboratory examinations may show normal findings, a diagnosis must be made on history, symptomatology and clinical findings alone, and since this is impossible many times a positive diagnosis is only made on post-mortem examination. Your case as described may be the result of a lead encephalitis in the past depending I should say, in the absence of positive laboratory findings, on the type of lead poisoning the man had two years ago.

As to treatment which at best is inadequate Doctor Kehoe has found the intravenous use of magnesium sulphate of some value.

Regret the delay in answering your letter and sorry Doctor Kehoe is not here to answer you personally.

Very sincerely yours