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In Reply
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July 18, 1956

Mr. Manfred Bowditch
Lead Industries Association
420 Lexington Avenue
New York 17, New York

Dear Manfred:

Henceforth, I shall have nothing further to say on the subject of Dr. Giessel. Reading his letter of July 5 to the Battery Company, however, impels me to fire one final shot.

If I interpret the implications of this letter correctly, we have here a rather classic example of the worst type of mail-order medicine. In essence, this is the situation: On the basis of a single laboratory test and apparently without benefit of history or physical examination, a physician is advising a layman to administer a drug. The drug has been shown to be potentially dangerous, while the mode of administration is of questionable effectiveness (these two factors may cancel each other out). Presumably, the physician in the case will learn the results of this so-called treatment by means of another laboratory test six months later. It is quite obvious to me that this is about as far as one can get from either the healing art or the practice of intelligent preventive medicine.

I do not know whether Dr. Giessel became a member of the Founders' Group of the Occupational Medicine Branch of the American Board of Preventive Medicine. If he did not and if he subsequently applies for membership, I will surely blackball him.

Frances and I are going shopping in Albuquerque Friday and we will pluck Red Johnstone from the Super Chief that noon. He and I will travel up to the meeting on Sunday and after the meeting on Monday he will return direct to Los Angeles. Neither Lem McGee nor Paul Richards will be able to join us. You can be sure, however, that your name will frequently be taken in vain over the week end.

Sincerely yours,

/s/

Tom

THOMAS L. SHIPMAN, M. D.,
Health Division Leader

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