

May 11, 1937

Mr. W. A. Lovell
Legal Aid Society
312 West Ninth Street
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Mr. Lovell:

o have an
opportunity to see Mr. [REDACTED] last week
although I am somewhat distressed at his situation.
Despite my wish to give him the benefit of every
doubt, I am quite unable to convince myself that his
present disability is importantly related to his illness
of some years ago. His present condition is substantially
as it was when I examined him last in 1934. He has the
same pallor, somewhat more anemia than when I saw him
last, and the same circulatory embarrassment although
there has apparently been some degree of symptomatic
improvement. I have never been able to find any evidence
of residual lead intoxication, and my initial judgment
that his disability might well be due to lead intoxication
was based on his history of employment and illness rather
than any specific evidences of lead poisoning. In as much
as he has had ample time to eliminate any abnormal quanti-
ties of lead which he may have absorbed, it is scarcely
feasible to attribute his present anemia to the presence
in his body of abnormal quantities of lead. The essentially
static character of his physical condition speaks very
strongly against lead as a cause, and leads me to feel
that my initial judgment was probably incorrect. With
this point of view, I can scarcely bring myself to vigorously
support a claim of disability due to lead absorption since
in my experience lead cases do not behave in this manner.
Indeed I question very much if this man would be in his
present physical condition if he had had adequate food
during the past several years. I realize how difficult it
is to tell a man in his position what he should do in order
to recover, since in my opinion what he should do is entirely
beyond his reach. I should be willing to give him any medical
care of which I am capable but it seems to me that what he
needs is not medical care but good food, sunshine and freedom
from his present deplorable economic state. If I knew of any
way in which this could be obtained for him, I should be very

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Mr. W. A. Lovell

happy to do anything I could do. If you have any suggestions, I should be very pleased to receive them since every time I have seen this man, I have been made unhappy and depressed by the humility and resignation with which he accepts his unfortunate lot.

Very truly yours,

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Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.

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