

January 6, 1938

Dr. Henri Giroire
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Nantes (Loire Inferieur)
France

Doctor Giroire:-

I am sending to you herewith the analytical results on the samples of feces which you sent to us some time ago. I am sending you an additional copy with the idea that you may wish to forward it to M. Savoy.

It is a matter of considerable interest to me that the fecal samples contain somewhat larger quantities of lead than do corresponding samples from American workmen. I would not wish to hazard a guess as to why this is the case, but at any rate it justifies my opinion that French food in general is not likely to be lower in its lead content than is American food. That this larger quantity of lead is not due to a larger quantity of fecal sample is shown by the fact that the lead concentration as expressed in milligrams per gram of fecal ash, is also appreciably higher than that seen in the case of American workmen.

I have not taken the time to calculate the mean value for the lead in the fecal samples or in relation to the ash content of the feces. However this mean figure is over half a milligram per sample of feces and is very nearly two-tenths of a milligram per gram of fecal ash. It would seem from these figures, therefore, that the average French workman takes in from two to three times as much lead in his food as does the average American workman. This conclusion is doubtless much too sweeping in view of the limited number of cases, but it is probably not too far from the truth.

Allow me to wish you, somewhat tardily, the best of everything during this new year.

Cordially yours,

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