

March 16, 1938

Dr. Sidney McCurdy
Supervisor, Medical Section
The Ohio Industrial Commission
Columbus, Ohio

Re: Claim No. OD 14593
[REDACTED]

Dear Doctor McCurdy:-

I have your letter of March 15th inquiring about my report of examination on the above claimant. The delay in sending you the report has been occasioned by the fact that there has been something very peculiar about the facts in this case. I examined Mr. Gast on February 21st and somewhat to my surprise, the patient complained of the same ailments associated with his original illness, and they seemed to be justified in some measure by his physical condition. I was unable to understand this since I felt that any illness due to lead intoxication should have disappeared some time before. The laboratory findings were such as to excite my suspicion that the claimant had been prepared for his visit to my office either through his own acts or through the ministrations of some other person. I was not able to complete my observations at that time for the reason that some prior engagements took me away for a period of about two weeks. On my return I was Mr. Gast again and I am attempting to determine definitely whether or not he is a malingerer. This is not a conclusion which I like to reach without very certain evidence. In fact I may not be able to ascertain the facts in this regard without putting the claimant in a hospital for a few days. However I believe that some tests carried out yesterday will answer the question with a reasonable assurance, and just as soon as the analytical data are obtainable, I shall be able to make my report. It will take some days to do this and I am doubtful if I shall be able to do so before the end of next week.

Perhaps we may save time if I raise the question now as to whether you will authorize a few days of hospitalization for Mr. Gast if it becomes necessary through the failure of these present tests to settle the question at issue. I have had reason from time to time to suspect that certain local physicians are not above the administration of significant dosages of lead in order to produce laboratory findings compatible with the diagnosis of lead intoxication. This is not a suspicion that justifies one in making accusations, but I have seen several rather queer things which do not

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explain themselves readily on any other basis. In any case I shall report to you fully within a very short time, and I trust that my delay has not occasioned any great inconvenience.

Very truly yours,

RAK:is

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.