

May 24, 1972

Mr. S. A. Hiscock
Lead Development Association
34 Berkeley Square
London W1, England

Dear Sid:

LH-106 Kettering Lead Abstracts
Paint Toxicity

Thank you for your letter of May 19th regarding the binders for the Kettering Lead Abstracts. Under separate cover, you will be receiving 30 copies of the first issue of Volume 8 of the Kettering Abstracts, along with 30 binders. We certainly are grateful for your support of the Abstracts and hope that others that you may contact will also subscribe.

On another matter, I would like to call your attention to two papers which appeared in the April 72 issue of The Annals of Occupational Hygiene, which is the journal of the British Occupational Hygiene Society. The two articles referred to, with copies enclosed, are by R. Piper, of Imperial Chemical Industries Limited, entitled "Paints and Painted Surfaces," and "The Danger of Lead in Paints," by F. D. Timmins. Mr. Timmins is apparently employed by the British Railways Board. While there are a number of exaggerations, especially with regard to mental retardation and pediatric lead poisoning, I do think that the major argument here is whether substitutes for lead in paints have the properties of lead. Certainly, Mr. Timmins is correct in his recommendation that lead should be eliminated from all paints if substitutes are available which do not require the precautionary measures necessary to prevent lead toxicity. All things being equal, one can't argue that lead poses problems which should be avoided if they can be avoided. I am sending this to you with the thought that you might want to contact Messrs. Timmins and Piper and present them with data and information on leaded paints pointing out the benefits of lead paint over potential substitutes. Of course, it is somewhat gratifying that Mr. Timmins advocates the use of zinc phosphate as the lead replacement.

If you have already seen these articles and have been in contact with the two authors, then please excuse my bringing this matter up again, however, because of the outright recommendation of the banning of all lead paint, I felt that these articles should be brought to your attention.

With best regards.

Sincerely,

J. F. Cole, Sc.D.
Director, Environmental Health
encs.

cc: D.S. Carr, J. F. Smith (w/enc.), D.R. Lynam

LIA-76853