

OKLAHOMA
POISON INFORMATION CENTER

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA MEDICAL CENTER

PHONE RE 6-1511

800 NORTHEAST THIRTEENTH STREET
OKLAHOMA CITY 4, OKLAHOMA

November 21, 1957

SPONSORED BY:

OKLAHOMA STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
OKLAHOMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA MEDICAL CENTER

H. A. SHOEMAKER, PH.D.
DIRECTOR

T. R. PFUNDT, M.D.
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Doctor Robert A. Kehoe
The Kettering Laboratory
College of Medicine-Eden Avenue
Cincinnati 19, Ohio

Dear Doctor Kehoe:

In order to give you more information than what I gave you in my letter of October 21, Mr. Elmer J. Ruehl is apparently operating a Ruehl Paint Company, 1008 Central Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio. In reply to my letter, asking them for information as to the composition of their products, Mr. Ruehl suggested that I contact you.

Mr. Ruehl wrote, "These toxic materials for both the public from the standpoint of ingestion and the paint, and similar manufacturers were discussed before the Cin. Dayton Indianapolis Columbus C.D.T.C. branch club of the Federation of Production Clubs. This paper by Doctor Kehoe should be enlightening". Unfortunately, some of these mix-ups do occur.

I have been very much interested in the operations of the Poison Center in Cincinnati. Your work in the connection with lead poisoning is particularly important. We have not done very much in that connection, however, we have had a number of cases come to the University Hospital in which lead poisoning occurred as a result from burning wood from discarded lead batteries.

We have asked for funds from the National Institute of Health to make a survey of all accidents involving children in Oklahoma, particularly, cases involving potentially toxic products.

Sincerely yours,

H. A. Shoemaker

H. A. Shoemaker

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November 16, 1957

Mr. H. A. Shoemaker, Director
Oklahoma Poison Information Center
University of Oklahoma Medical Center
800 Northeast Thirteenth Street
Oklahoma City 4, Oklahoma

Dear Sir:

I am completely mystified by a number of things in your letter of October 21, for I have never heard of the Club to which you refer, and much less have I appeared before it. It seems probable that I have met Mr. Ruehl, but my memory for names is not very reliable, and I cannot connect him with any address which I have made or with any of my other activities. I have not talked on the specific subject referred to in your letter in any more than an incidental manner for some years.

It seems likely that the work done in this Laboratory over the period of many years on various aspects of the problem of lead poisoning has come to your ears, and also that Mr. Ruehl has had some contact with someone who is aware of the problem of lead poisoning in childhood - a problem which we have investigated in some detail over a period of years in collaboration with physicians in the Children's Hospital and in the Cincinnati General Hospital. If I am correct in this interpretation of your interest, and if you will let me know what you wish to find out, I shall be glad to answer your questions as well as I can. Unfortunately, partly because a number of people have been involved in the clinical work on this problem, and partly because we have been preoccupied with our primary investigative work, of which this is a side issue - albeit a very significant one -, we have not published our observations and results. The time approaches when this must be done, if we are not to be negligent of our responsibilities, since this matter of childhood lead poisoning is serious and widespread, involving some thousands of children in this country between the ages of one and three years and having a mortality of approximately twenty-five percent. It is for this reason that I feel the necessity of providing information on it informally, since we have not disseminated such information effectively through the more formal channels of publication.

You may also have occasion to be interested in the operations of the

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Mr. H. A. Shoemaker - (2) - November 16, 1957

Poison Center in Cincinnati, to which we have the privilege of making some contribution.

Sincerely yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

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October 21, 1957

H. A. SHOEMAKER, Ph.D.
DIRECTOR

T. R. PFUNDT, M.D.
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

Dr. Kehoe
Kittinger Laboratory
University of Cincinnati
General Hospital
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Doctor Kehoe:

I am in receipt of a note from Mr. Elmer J. Ruehl, to the effect that you discussed the subject of the toxicity resulting from the ingestion of paint and similar products before the C. D. T. C. Branch Club of the Federation of Productions Clubs.

If you have a copy of your paper available, I would appreciate receiving same.

Sincerely yours,



H. A. Shoemaker

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