

August 26, 1946

Dr. Willard Machle,
610 Park Avenue,
New York City 21.

Dear Bill:

I send you herewith the analytical results on the samples recently forwarded in conjunction with your report of your investigation of this situation. Cholak has written to you to outline what seemed the best procedures to undertake. In this connection I might point out that the mercury concentrations in the blood even under conditions of serious exposure are quite low, and therefore a sample of 40 to 50 ml of whole blood is required to yield really useful results. The negative result on the blood of [REDACTED] should not be taken too seriously, therefore. As to the possible mercury concentrations in the aspiration sample, a more sensitive method would be required, no doubt, to determine the facts.

The essentially normal lead concentrations in the urine and/or blood of these men carry their own implications. As to the mercury concentrations, you are aware, I am sure, of the vagaries of the results usually obtained insofar as their relation to mercury absorption is concerned. You will be interested in knowing that we are obtaining results in an investigation of the mercury problem, that suggest that these difficulties may be overcome. However our information is scarcely applicable to your present problem, unless indeed you wish to follow Bowles from time to time. If so, I would advise obtaining periodic 24-hour samples of urine and 50 ml samples of blood. If therapy is indicated, B.A.L. might well be thought of.

No stippled erythrocytes were found in the blood smear of Bowles.

I presume from the bills that are coming in that your office is about ready for occupancy.

Best Regards,

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

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