

February 4, 1965

L. Golberg, Director
The British Industrial
Biological Research Association
Woodmansterne Road
Carshalton
Surrey
England

Dear Doctor Golberg:

I have just replied to your letter of January 25th, but my reply has not been posted, and I hasten to include a note on the subject of your query of January 29. I took note of the article by Moncrieff and Clayton when it appeared, and have since had my attention drawn further to it by several persons here and abroad. It seems likely that I did not deal with it altogether effectively, but I wrote to Sir Alan and later, after his somewhat non-committal reply, I wrote to Barbara Clayton. I feel sure that neither of them understood fully the significance of my comments. Perhaps I was too gentle, or, perhaps, my letter and certain sharp remarks should have been addressed to the editor of the Archives for publication. In any case, I am not sure, at the moment, what if anything further I should do or say, and to whom or through what channels I should direct any further remark. The problem is that these authors have not had the experience, nor the familiarity with the literature, to write such an article as they attempted. Their work and their writing are full of faults, especially those relating to unfamiliarity with present knowledge of the subject. They, in common with a number of other writers on the subject of lead poisoning, have no proper appreciation of the quantitative aspects of exposure, dosage absorption, body burden and excretion. Their analytical procedures and their interpretations reflect this ignorance of the difference between precision and approximation. It is most unfortunate that this confusion should be introduced into this subject at the very time that it appears to be well on the way to elucidation in a number of important respects.

I shall consider your suggestion for writing a letter for publication. I cannot do so at the moment, for the reason that I have asked for advice on this in another direction, and

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until I receive it, I am hardly in a position to act. I shall do something soon, however, and I'll either follow your suggestion or let you know the alternative.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.

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