

March 15, 1971

J. Julian Chisolm, Jr., M.D.
Baltimore City Hospitals
4940 Eastern Avenue
Baltimore 24, Maryland

Dear Doctor Chisolm:

In going over an accumulation of letters, manuscripts, reprints, and other papers which have gathered on my desk in times past and recently, after my return to my office from a stay of some weeks in San Francisco, I came upon a sheaf of correspondence with you, together with some reprints and sheets of data. I realized from this material that I had abandoned my correspondence with you, at a time when I was under pressure to complete some bit of work which I had promised by a certain date. It would be very hard for me to determine, at this late date, just what occasioned the lapse, for the reason that there has hardly ever been a time in the course of many years when I was not under some such pressure. However, I am sorry that this occurred and I feel doubly regretful, not so much because of my apparent discourtesy, (no such thing was intended), as because it would have been profitable to me, at least, to have continued our discussions.

I am the more impressed by the truth of that statement, in view of my recent examination of your contributions to the subject of lead poisoning as a member of the panel representing the National Academy of Sciences. (I am not supposed to reveal my activities in reviewing the report of this panel, but I am sure that this is not a breach of confidence in mentioning this to you.) I do so only to tell you how much I admired the manner in which you covered the field assigned to you, for despite the difficulties of dictating an extensive coverage of the facts (and the need for editing), the information so assembled was remarkably complete. I have been engaged in a rather extensive editorial task in recent months, and I marvel that a busy clinician could have found the time to cover this subject as you have.

My writing to you at this time, however, is an expression of the twinges of my conscience at having found myself too busy, some time ago, to follow up our correspondence and discussions. I make no promise to do better in the future, for my prospect is that of finding myself swamped by a variety of things I want to do, while being pressed to do other things, not the least of which are related to the present confusion of efforts to save our environment by attempting the impossible, while ignoring the performance of the possible.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.
Professor Emeritus of
Occupational Medicine