

American Medical Association

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AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

EDITOR
JOHN H. TALBOTT, M.D.

March 5, 1963

Joseph R. Christian, M. D.
Presbyterian-St. Luke's Hospital
1753 West Congress Parkway
Chicago 12, Illinois

Dear Doctor Christian:

I am sorry the news is not good regarding your manuscript on Lead Poisoning. The treatise was reviewed by one of our highly competent experts in the Council on Occupational Health, who was so critical of the manuscript that it probably would be best to quote only a few of his comments.

In substance, it was his belief that a large number of uncritical statements were made.

"Reference to the mode of absorption and the criteria for diagnosis revealed several naive statements. There was considerable conjecture in the discussion of the physiology of lead absorption and much of what is known and generally accepted was ignored.

"There was a sad lack of review of the best literature in the field, and a gross misunderstanding regarding blood levels and their significance. No mention was made of the procedures used for the analysis of the blood."

Our reviewer was convinced on the basis of his long experience in the field that lead in the ambient (outside) is not a cause of lead poisoning.

It should be noted that the American Journal of Diseases of Children as well as the Archives of Environmental Health are in the family of AMA scientific publications, and I suspect that your manuscript would meet the same fate if considered for publication by either periodical.

Sincerely yours,

T:s
Enc: Ms. #7176

cc: Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

John H. Talbott, M. D.

N 6246

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