

Lead Industries Association

420 LEXINGTON AVENUE

NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

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MANFRED BOWDITCH
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH AND SAFETY

December 16, 1955

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D., Director
Kettering Laboratory -
University of Cincinnati
Eden Avenue
Cincinnati 19, Ohio

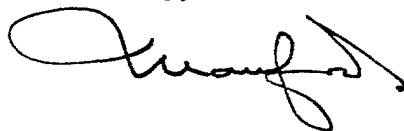
Dear Bob:

Please be good enough to adjust your glasses, put your feet up, and peruse my two enclosures.

They seem sufficiently self-explanatory so that I need only add that Dr. Baumgartner is Chairman of the Committee on Scientific Assembly of the American Academy of General Practice, and that, though a most pleasant chap to meet, I see in his case some symptoms of the plumbomyopia not too uncommon in the general run of your profession.

If you felt disposed to write Dr. Baumgartner, saying that I had told you of this proposal of mine and that it had your hearty endorsement, I would feel even more disposed to wish you a Merry Christmas than I already do.

Sincerely,



MB:GW

Enclosures

KE 0014911

LEAD INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION

420 Lexington Avenue

New York 17, N. Y.

MANFRED BOWDITCH
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH AND SAFETY

December 15, 1955

George M. Wheatley, M. D.
Vice President
Metropolitan Life Insurance Company
One Madison Avenue
New York 10, New York

Dear George:

I don't think I have yet told you of the rather negative upshot of my luncheon session in Boston with Dr. Baumgartner and Mr. Hermetet of the Kansas City headquarters of the Academy of General Practice. Their general approach was that of questioning the interest of the Academy members in any discussion of lead poisoning, though they admitted as a sort of afterthought that the whole subject of industrial medicine had got a black eye with their group from a session thereon several years ago for which they had selected speakers who, as I could have told them, could be counted on to be more than a bit somnifacient to such an aggregation.

About all they were prepared to say was that they might seek to assay the interest by means of a questionnaire in their journal, and that they could provide space for an exhibit on plumbism at their 1956 annual meeting in Washington next March. With the former I would be glad to help them, though I question its value, but I hardly need clarify to you my thoughts about single-handedly preparing a really good exhibit and carting it down to Washington. Especially as, when the show had been ripped down and junked, we would probably know little more of the true extent of interest than we do now.

But you will gather from the enclosed to Dr. Baumgartner that I am not letting my proposal die without a struggle. The copy goes to you both because it was through your kindness that I first got in touch with him, and also with the thought that Bill Shepard may be willing to lend a hand in putting it across. The blind copies to Johnstone and Kehoe are based on the possibility that, if his A.M.A. Council were willing to go to bat, these two plumbically astute lads would have the most likely interest.

Sincerely and hopefully yours,



MB:GW

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Johnstone
Dr. Kehoe

RE 0014912

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LEAD INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION

420 Lexington Avenue

New York 17, N. Y.

MANFRED BOWDITCH
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH AND SAFETY

December 15, 1955

Mr. Irving Baumgartner, M. D.
25 Adler Street
Oakland, Maryland

Dear Mr. Baumgartner:

Such as I enjoyed meeting you and Mr. Perretet, I come away from our little session in Boston with a feeling of considerable disappointment, and this was not lessened by two communications which followed close on my return.

The first of these, on December 7th, was a telephone call from a general practitioner in Newark who, faced with what he believed to be a case of lead poisoning, and admitting little knowledge of the symptomatology and even less of present-day therapy, sought my aid. My response was of course to put him in touch with a clinician qualified to give the advice which I, as a layman, neither could or should.

The second came two days later in the letter from which I quote the paragraph herewith. Mr. Bridges, Acting Secretary of the Council on Industrial Health of the L.I.A., gave me the names of a practitioner in Indiana and an industrial representative in Missouri, both of whom were seeking the information indicated, and asked me to write to them. Literature on prevention, diagnosis and treatment was sent to both, with suggestions as to sources of additional medical guidance.

These are but two of many, many evidences of lack of understanding on the part of otherwise competent medical men, with its inevitable concomitants of misdiagnosis and failure of proper treatment.

Granting that silicosis is but one of the occupational ailments, it nevertheless shares with silicosis an importance of the first order, and it can be factually stated (1) that the great majority of cases fall into the hands of the general practitioner, rather than of the specialist in industrial medicine, (2) that most of these men have left their schools with little or no instruction in this subject, (3) that both the proper diagnosis and treatment of lead intoxication call for awareness of modern methods, and (4) that such cognizance is hardly to be expected of the general practitioner who, in the years since graduation, has devoted his time and talents to ministering to the thousand and one more ecumenical diseases to which our flesh is heir.

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N18605.02

D. Irving Baumgartner, M. D.

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December 18, 1955

Admitting my professional bias, this seems to me a situation which the Academy of General Practice is in duty bound to ameliorate to such extent as may be done by the means readily available to it. Since the schedule of your annual meeting in the coming year has been completed, what I have proposed is that you allot as liberal a proportion of the program time of your 1957 meeting as is possible to discussions of the etiology, diagnosis and treatment of pleurisy, and that we will then undertake to provide medical speakers eminently qualified to assume the leadership of such sessions. We would furthermore be only too glad to assist in a stimulation of interest among your members in which, because of our preoccupation with this subject, we are perhaps rather uniquely able to cooperate.

I trust that you will give further and thoughtful consideration to this project and that the outcome will be that for which I so earnestly hope.

Sincerely yours,



DIB:JH

enclosure

cc: Dr. Bernstein
Dr. Wheatley

cc: Dr. Johnstone
Dr. Kehoe

KE 0014914