

THE DEVILBISS COMPANY

TOLEDO 1, OHIO

OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY

March 3, 1954

Mr. Manfred Bowditch
Director of Health and Safety
Lead Industries Association
420 Lexington Avenue
New York 17, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Bowditch:

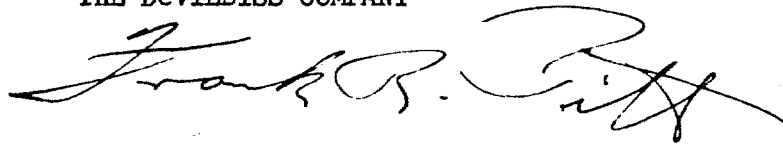
The enclosed news item is taken from
the Toledo Sunday Blade of February 28th.

When the appearance of phosphorescent
streaks shows evidence of lead poisoning (not
phosphorus poisoning), I am convinced modern
miracles are happening in Austria!

I do not know how you rebut such
undesirable and untrustworthy reports.

Very sincerely yours

THE DEVILBISS COMPANY



FRP:ph
Enc.

SEC. 1

Paint Job On Her Wall Is Sickening

Housewife's Illness Traced To Poisoning From Lead Mixture

VIENNA, Feb. 27 (Reuters)—
For more than five years, Berta,
a 31-year-old Viennese house-
wife, has been complaining
about pains in her body, loss of
weight, falling hair, and other
symptoms.

Mystified doctors removed her
gall bladder, tonsils and ap-
pendix. It didn't help.

Caused By Paint

Recently, the newspaper
Neues Oesterreich reported
today, doctors decided it could
be lead poisoning—caused by
paint on the walls of her home.

The theory developed after
Berta, groping in the dark for
a light switch, saw a phosphores-
cent streak appear where her
fingers touched the wall.

But first tests showed no
traces of lead in her blood or
other fluids. The doctors then de-
cided she must have "depots"
of lead stored in an unusual man-
ner in her bones and body cells.

House Repainted

Tests showed the woman—
identified only as Mrs. Berta
H.—had twice as much lead in
her system as is needed to cer-
tify a person is suffering from
this disease.

Mrs. H. is to enter a clinic
shortly. She has had her house
repainted.

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