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Brisbane Clinic

WICKHAM TERRACE
BRISBANE, B.17

November 25th 1946.

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ar Dr Kehoe,

I wish to thank you for the batch
nts you were kind enough to send me on your work
Poisoning. Of course I have read of your researches
subject in the literature for many years.

We have had a very interesting problem in
soning and its sequelae here - you may be familiar
e of our findings which are briefly -

1. When houses were painted with lead
int there was an extraordinary incidence of acute
d chronic lead poisoning in children.

There are several factors operating in
inging this about such as

a. The climate which is hot and causes
the paint to dessicate and brush off as powdered lead
carbonate -

b. The type of house which used to be on
high blocks with verandahs closed in by a gate thus
making a pen in which children spent much of their
daylight hours.

2. We found that any child who suffered from
Plumbism sufficiently severe to produce Paralysis al-
most invariably died of Arteriosclerosis and Chronic
Nephritis in early adult life.

We published many articles on the subject
and pressure from the B.M.A. caused the Government to
enact stringent legislation preventing the use of lead
paint in places accessible to children.

Unfortunately I have been kept so busy
with a practice which demands all my time that I have not
been able to do further work on the problem for the past 15
years after my book was published.

However, my work has been confirmed by the Federal Government investigators - Murray et al. and by the Queensland State Government - Derrick. The latter has much evidence and specimens collected confirming our thesis and hopes some day to do some further research on the problem.

Suffice it to say that there is no doubt whatever that chronic lead poisoning in infancy definitely causes arteriosclerosis in this climate. I say "in this climate" advisedly for I believe that the heat affects the body metabolism in such a way as to make us more susceptible to its effects.

If children can be affected in this way it appears to me that it is probable that some of the arteriosclerosis of adults may also be due to chronic lead poisoning in susceptible persons, the lead being absorbed from the industrial atmosphere. In this respect it is significant that I investigated the arteries of over one hundred aged Australian aboriginals in their primitive native state in the Cape York Peninsula and could find no evidence of arteriosclerosis - also I understand that the Negro in Africa is likewise free of arteriosclerosis but in U.S.A. the incidence amongst them is similar to that of the whites.

If you have not got a copy of my book I shall be glad to send it to you - I have only a few copies left and it is out of print.

With greetings and congratulations on your excellent work.

Yours sincerely,

A. J. Murray