

COPY

November 4, 1955

William U. Siessal, M.D.
Medical Director
Occupational Health Laboratories
211 Wiley Street
Houston 3, Texas

Dear Bill:

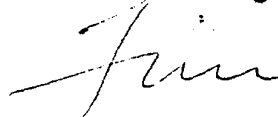
A short time ago I had the opportunity to chat with Manfred Bouditch concerning his broad experience with lead problems. He mentioned that he had visited you on one occasion and was quite impressed with your approach to industrial hygiene problems in Houston. Needless to say, I was delighted to hear this from him, for I know he has had such a broad experience and is a critical judge of such matters.

He mentioned one item, however, which disturbed him and, I must confess, disturbs me. It concerns your recommendation of the prophylactic use of EDTA. I am not sure whether you have seen Bob Kubie's comments on this matter but would recommend that you read it if you have not had the opportunity to do so thus far. It appears in the JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION, Volume 157, Number 4, January 22, 1955, page 341. This statement was accepted as an official Council report and, I believe, represents the best thinking of experienced physicians in this field. You may also have seen the comments by Red Johnstone in the August, 1954, issue of INDUSTRIAL MEDICINE AND SURGERY. We are certainly not convinced that the advocates of the prophylactic use of EDTA have at all satisfactorily answered the criticisms leveled at this application.

As you know, this situation is not unique, and the use of medications or chemicals has been previously suggested for a variety of other kinds of exposure. The basic objection, of course, is that it is somewhat like giving a person a shot of morphine while he is being hit over the head with a hammer. While the morphine may relieve some of his symptoms, it is not the obvious solution to the problem.

I was sorry that I didn't get to see you on my last visit to Houston and wondered why you weren't in attendance at the Conference. My only real justification for coming back on this occasion was the meeting of our Council on Industrial Health, which was held simultaneously with the Health Conference.

With best regards,



James H. Sterner, M.D.
Medical Director

JMS:AC

cc: Dr. M. Bouditch

Also, copies to: Dr. Hardy
Dr. Johnstone
Dr. Kubie

VE B 02913