

September 24, 1937

Dr. J. F. Peattie
Hospital Department
Tidewater Associated Oil Company
79 New Montgomery Street
San Francisco, California

Re: No.182

Dear Doctor Peattie:

Please accept my thanks for the information on the death of Mr. [REDACTED] and the present status of the case from a medico-legal point of view.

I have two definite suggestions to make. First it is necessary to make a rather careful interpretation of the results of Dr. Moore's analyses on the tissues. The range of values for the lead concentration in the bones and other tissues of normal persons is not as clearly defined as one might wish. However one does know something of the quantities that have been found in the tissues of persons without exposure in the lead trades. Dr. Moore's data will have to be interpreted in relation to this information. Second, there is a question of the analytical methods. These methods may have been very good. On the other hand I have no knowledge of Dr. Moore's work which would give me an opinion as to their accuracy, and in any case I should consider it wise to have the analytical results checked, if that is possible. For a variety of reasons, both scientific and practical, I have the utmost interest in cases of this type and I should be very glad to obtain portions of the tissues for analysis, if it can be done. It is necessary, in cases of this type, to have not only samples of bone (preferably both long bone and flatbone), but also samples of the liver, spleen, kidney and muscle. Obviously the more types of tissue one can examine, the more accurate will be his calculation of the total quantity present in the body, and his interpretation of the facts. In his case the occurrence of neurologic lesions makes it imperative that the brain and spinal cord be examined for their lead content. Too frequently the conclusions are arrived at in these cases from wholly inadequate data, and I suspect that this may have been the case here. In fact, in view of Mr. Telepnev's history, and especially in view of the fact that in recent years he would seem to have had no significant exposure to lead, it appears unlikely that he

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could have had abnormal quantities of lead in his tissues.

It may be that you will be unable to obtain tissues for analysis at our hands. However, I should be very glad if you would see what can be done. We can obtain accurate results on quantities of tissue between 25 and 100 grams, and if such tissues can be sent to us, we will examine them promptly and report our findings with all speed.

With kindest personal regards,

Cordially yours,

RAK:is

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.