

July 30, 1956

Mr. Manfred Bowditch
Lead Industries Association
420 Lexington Avenue
New York City 17

Dear Manfred:

Your left-handed remarks to me about my participation in the "La Luce" affair leave me undisturbed. You may have appreciated the fact that I did not stick out my neck. I was certainly hard put to avoid either saying something that should not be said, or acquiescing to it, and so being quoted. I shall be keenly interested in the story of the affair, if or when it issues forth.

In the matter of your Dr. Giessel, I cannot be too much aroused. There are many aspects of the situation that are just as bad as this in many parts of the country. Actually, in some places it is believed, or at least hoped - in any case the idea is being toyed with if not actually carried out - that this procedure of keeping the excretion of lead up to the level of absorption, by the regular passing out of tablets to workmen by laymen, without benefit of any medical advice or supervision, I am prepared to do what I can about it, but I do not plan to enter into direct polemics on it with physicians. Rather I hope to provide some instruction in what to do and how to do it, as a substitute for poor practices that are the result of an inadequate grasp of the problem.

With the foregoing idea in mind I have written to Dr. Giessel as one colleague to another, and have offered to show him how better to do what he is attempting to do. I send you a copy of my letter, with the request that you regard it as a confidential communication for your own information. It is due you for your energetic efforts in this situation, but no good can come of a lapse, so to speak, of professional courtesy, on my part. You can speak of it discreetly if you wish, but please do not circulate the letter. I hope I am not criticizing you or our other interested friends, by implication, in my explanation to Dr. Giessel of my purpose and source of information. I have to have some handle to what might otherwise be regarded as an intrusion.

The paper of Manville et al mentioned in various items of correspondence between yourself, Giessel and others is the one which I criticized vigorously from the floor of the Buffalo meeting. I also took issue with Drinker about it, from the aspect of publication. It is a prime example of what I expected in rather stupid medical circles, and spoke against in my editorial. Incidentally, Drinker does not agree with me at all.

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I am also writing Dr. George of Sydney, belatedly, to be sure, but as fully as I can. I'm attempting to clear up my sadly neglected correspondence before getting away to the mountains on August 3. I enclose a copy of my letter to him, since this, clearly, is a different situation from that in which Dr. Giessel is involved.

With regards,

Sincerely yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

RAK ef

Enc.

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