

LEAD INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION

420 Lexington Avenue

New York 17, N. Y.

MANFRED BOWDITCH
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH AND SAFETY

June 27, 1956

AIR MAIL

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

Dear Dr. Giessel:

Thank you for your letter of June 18th.

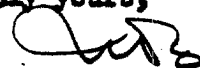
While there may be any number of subgroupings, I think it may be said that there are basically two schools of thought with regard to EDTA, one of which favors the oral use of the drug, while the other considers the tablets therapeutically useless, or worse. Insofar as I am competent to judge between the two, I am inclined to side with the latter.

Of the references mentioned in your first paragraph, I am familiar with that by Shiels, et al. and agree that it lends support to the contentions of the "oral" school; I do not know the paper by Manville and Moser and would be grateful for a more definitive reference. I have corresponded extensively with Dr. Shiels, have high regard for him and have many of his reprints. So far as I can recall, the current paper is his first on EDTA.

It is not my purpose to pick quarrels on medical or health topics, but I do consider it my function to do what I can to promote sound preventive and therapeutic services to workers exposed to lead hazards, particularly those employed by our member companies, of which at least one has the attention of your office. Furthermore, as a layman, I avoid as far as possible controversies with physicians on medical subjects. For that reason, rather than reply in more detail to the arguments set forth in your letter, I am sending copies of it and of this response to the five doctors whose names appear below, all authorities in industrial medicine and all experienced in the application of EDTA to the problem of plumbism. I hope that this will lead to replies to your discussion far more valuable than any that could come from me.

As to the matter of reprints, that of the recent paper by Foreman et al. which you received was one of a number mailed by us to physicians known to be interested in EDTA. It was also sent, with the bulletin of which a copy is herewith, to the members of our Association. Rather than undertake to select other reprints on this subject in response to your request, I am enclosing also a copy of a list of reprints on this and on childhood plumbism which we have on hand in varying quantities. Insofar as we have them to spare, I shall be glad to send you any that you may select.

Sincerely yours,



MB:GW
Enclosures

cc: Dr. H. L. Hardy
Dr. R. T. Johnstone

Dr. T. L. Shipman
Dr. J. H. Sterner

N22149