

July 15, 1949

Dr. Paul L. Dent,
Francis Building,
Louisville, Kentucky.

Dear Doctor Dent:

I send you herewith a report of the analytical results obtained on the urine and blood of Edward Riggs referred to in your letter of June 30. These results are well within normal limits, and on their own account and in association with the history given in your letter, they are quite incompatible with the diagnosis of lead intoxication.

For your future guidance in this kind of a situation, I should like to point out to you that you are taking an undue risk in obtaining samples of this sort for analysis here or elsewhere, in any other sort of container than that supplied by the analyst. The matter of whether a container is sterile is completely irrelevant, for what is required is strict chemical cleanliness. This cannot be achieved except under highly specialized conditions, and therefore the kind of container that is used generally for biological samples is unsatisfactory. In view of your letter, these samples were analyzed, against our usual practice (since in medico-legal situations we do not analyze materials except those supplied in our own containers), on the theory that if the results were low, they would be satisfactory, but if high, they would be completely disregarded and would not be reported. It was a matter of pure chance that the samples were not significantly contaminated by the containers. On the other hand, since the results were low they can be regarded as wholly valid as we have interpreted them. I make these points clear, since you should recognize that whenever a high result is obtained and recorded, whether it is correct or not, the fate of the case in question is likely to be established thereby. Actually, therefore, it is much better to have no information than to have results which may be misleading.

Cordially yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

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Enc.

KE 0004202

Name: [REDACTED]

Material: Urine and Blood (Not in Kettering containers)

Submitted: 7-6-49 by Dr. Paul L. Dent, B. F. Goodrich Chemical Co., Louisville, Kentucky

Required: Lead Analysis

URINE

Analysis Number	-	49A-7973
Volume	-	38 ml.
Specific Gravity	-	Insufficient Quantity
Mg. Pb/Liter	-	0.035

BLOOD

Analysis Number	-	49A-7837
Weight	-	23.5 Grams
Mg. Pb/100 Grams	-	0.03 (Spectographic)
Mg. Pb/100 Grams	-	0.03 (Dithizone)

Samples Collected: 6-30-48
Samples Received: 7-5-49
Samples Reported: 7-12-49