

February 26, 1958

Dr. Russell L. Cecil, Editor
A Textbook of Medicine
449 East Sixty-eighth Street
New York 32, N.Y.

Dear Doctor Cecil:

I am sending herewith the completed manuscript of the chapter on lead poisoning. You will find it longer than you specified, but this has seemed to me to be unavoidable. Perhaps some further editing of the type Dr. Loeb provided will cut it down further, but I hardly think it can be compressed to any great extent without emasculating it, unless certain sections of it are eliminated completely.

I have accepted almost every change or deletion suggested by Dr. Loeb. In only one or two instances have I felt that something of real significance should be restored. Inasmuch as I have occasion to note the mistakes of omission and commission which are made by physicians in their handling of cases of occupational lead poisoning, I have tried to clarify some of the issues that are most troublesome. Among these the point made in the footnote on page 13 might seem to be redundant, but this is, in fact, the most troublesome single problem which must be dealt with at present, and something has to be said about it.

Likewise, the matter of therapy, which one would wish to handle more tersely, is in a state of great confusion even among physicians who would be expected to know their way around. Therefore, I have felt it necessary to speak of principles and purposes to a greater extent than you may like. It may be that Dr. Loeb can shrink this section without detriment to its usefulness as he did with other parts of the manuscript. If so, I shall be still further grateful to him. Perhaps I am too close to the present situation to see in proper perspective that which the medical student or physician can be expected to make use of. After thirty years of experience the proper handling of occupational lead poisoning seems very simple, but I find it complicated in medical practice, and especially

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in medico-legal procedure to a remarkable extent, and therefore, I find it almost as necessary to inveigh against certain misconceptions and improper practices, as it is to point out the proper course. This, I recognize, is not the way textbooks are written, and so I have exercised as much restraint as I am capable of. I trust that what I have done meets generally with your purposes.

Sincerely yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

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