

June 9, 1958

Dr. A.P. Gewanter
Pathologist
The Somerset Hospital
Redhill Avenue
Somerville, N.J.

Dear Doctor Gewanter:

We are sending you the containers for the collection of the blood and urine of Dr. Sullivan's patient. If the urine cannot be collected readily and satisfactorily (as is so often the case when the patient is a female child) it can be ignored and the container returned empty.

If the child has no symptoms and no history of exposure, the tentative diagnosis of "potential" or "latent" lead poisoning (or whatever term is used to apply to excessive absorption of lead) may well be incorrect, since both X-ray shadows and blood changes are non-specific.

Your mention of the father's occupation suggests that you or Dr. Sullivan believe that such work involves an occupational exposure to lead. I should be somewhat less than informative if I were to fail to point out that such is not the case. The handling of leaded gasoline by filling station employees has never been known to cause even a measurable increase in the absorption of lead, much less poisoning. For some reason the contrary idea gained a currency among many physicians and has been difficult to dislodge, and has caused a great deal of confusion in medical thinking.

Cordially yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

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