

MIDLAND HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

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MIDLAND, MICHIGAN

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LAURIN J. KAASA, M. D.
PATHOLOGIST

TELEPHONE 3800

Dr. R. A. Kehoe, M.D.
Professor of Medicine
University of Cincinnati Medical School

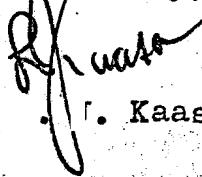
Dear Doctor Kehoe,

Because of your long experience in the matter of lead poisoning, I am writing this letter to ask you some advice.

Recently, I performed autopsies on two children with a diagnosis of chronic lead poisoning. The first child was three and one half years old. The exposure was of two years duration to lead toxins from burning of lead batteries. The second, a younger, four months old sister of this first child was also exposed through the mother, via the placenta, prior to birth.

Recently I have been checking through the literature and find only a few vague references to poisoning of newborn by this method through the placenta of the mother. I am wondering if you have had any experience with any cases of a similar nature. I think this case has sufficient interest to warrant its publication.

Sincerely,



L. Kaasa, M.D.

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Dear Doctor Kaasa:-

There has been some information available for a long time on the ability of lead to reach the fetus by way of the placenta. Much of this has derived from animal experimentation, and it is well established that few persons of experience would feel it necessary to remark on it further. Still births, have not been reported in any considerable number, with satisfactory evidence of their etiology, and I know of no reports of cases referred to, in which illness of the type resulted in death after delivery. There may have

