

HUNTINGTON WILLIAMS, M. D., DR. P. H.
COMMISSIONER
WILLIAM H. F. WARTHEN, M. D.
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER
REED GAITHER
SECRETARY



BUREAU OF OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES
JOHN M. McDONALD, M. D., D. P. H.
DIRECTOR

BALTIMORE CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Russweiler

July 17, 1937

Dr. G. H. Gehrman
Medical Director, E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company
Wilmington, Delaware

Dear Dr. Gehrman:

In the last three years twenty-two Baltimore children have died of lead poisoning. Every one of these deaths has been investigated and we have found that in every case there was a history of the child's chewing a repainted surface, usually a crib.

I am therefore anxious to get information regarding paints which are safe for use in repainting children's furniture. I have been recommending the use of lithopone or titanium paint for this purpose. The question has arisen as to the possibility of obtaining colors such as greens, yellows and oranges which are made of lead free materials.

It occurred to me that the Haskell Laboratory might be able to furnish information regarding these paints and colorings. If so, will you be kind enough to advise me as to the safety of lithopone and titanium, and also as to what lead free greens, yellows and oranges are commercially available at a reasonably low price.

Very truly yours, —

John M. McDonald
Director, Bureau of Occupational Diseases

JMMCD/E

N 3142