

July 21, 1939

Mr. J. J. Bloomfield
United States Public Health Asso.
7th and Independence Avenues
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Bloomfield:

Please accept my thanks for your kindness in sending me a copy of your letter to Dr. Schrenk. I am afraid I shall have to confess to a certain carelessness in having misquoted you in my talk at Northwestern University in September of 1937. My use of the figure 3 milligrams per 10 cubic meters which, by the way, was not a part of my manuscript, but was thrown out somewhat parenthetically, was based on a misconception of the meaning of one of your statements in the literature. As you are aware, there has been a certain looseness in the use of these limits in that sometimes they are spoken of in terms of the quantity of lead which presumably may be inhaled per day, whereas sometimes they are given in terms of quantities per 10 cubic meters of air. I made the mistake in this instance of thinking that you had used the figure of approximately 1.5 milligrams in reference to the daily intake by inhalation rather than in terms of the quantity in a known volume of air. I have since recognized the mistake and have corrected it wherever the opportunity has presented itself. The error, I believe, was explainable though not quite excusable, and I am sorry that it has occasioned any difficulty of any kind. I can assure you that in my own practical work, I have considered that the concentrations in air should be under 2 milligrams per 10 cubic meters. In some instances, by reason of the nature of the material disseminated into the atmosphere, I have urged that the limits be lower even than 1-1/2 milligrams per 10 cubic meters.

Incidentally some of the work which we have done lately, particularly in the steel industry, has brought me into contact with some of the men who were present at Northwestern, and I have made it a point to correct them as to your position.

I am

With kindest personal regards,

Cordially yours,

RAK:ls

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.

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