

May 11, 1937

Mr. W. A. Lovell  
Legal Aid Society  
312 West Ninth Street  
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Mr. Lovell:

I was very glad to have an opportunity to see Mr. [REDACTED] last week although I am somewhat distressed at his situation. Despite my wish to give him the benefit of every doubt, I am quite unable to convince myself that his present disability is importantly related to his illness of some years ago. His present condition is substantially as it was when I examined him last in 1934. He has the same pallor, somewhat more anemia than when I saw him last, and the same circulatory embarrassment although there has apparently been some degree of symptomatic improvement. I have never been able to find any evidence of residual lead intoxication, and my initial judgment that his disability might well be due to lead intoxication was based on his history of employment and illness rather than any specific evidences of lead poisoning. In as much as he has had ample time to eliminate any abnormal quantities of lead which he may have absorbed, it is scarcely feasible to attribute his present anemia to the presence in his body of abnormal quantities of lead. The essentially static character of his physical condition speaks very strongly against lead as a cause, and leads me to feel that my initial judgment was probably incorrect. With this point of view, I can scarcely bring myself to vigorously support a claim of disability due to lead absorption since in my experience lead cases do not behave in this manner. Indeed I question very much if this man would be in his present physical condition if he had had adequate food during the past several years. I realize how difficult it is to tell a man in his position what he should do in order to recover, since in my opinion what he should do is entirely beyond his reach. I should be willing to give him any medical care of which I am capable but it seems to me that what he needs is not medical care but good food, sunshine and freedom from his present deplorable economic state. If I knew of any way in which this could be obtained for him, I should be very

Mr. W. A. Lovell

happy to do anything I could do. If you have any suggestions, I should be very pleased to receive them since every time I have seen this man, I have been made unhappy and depressed by the humility and resignation with which he accepts his unfortunate lot.

Very truly yours,

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Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.

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