

Pennsylvania Salt Manufacturing Co.
Manufacturing Chemists

1000 Widener Building

Philadelphia 7



February 10, 1947

Dr. R. A. Kehoe
 Lettering Laboratory of Applied Physiology
 Eden Avenue
 Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear Dr. Kehoe:

I attach copy of letter from office of Dr. Pillmore of Easton Hospital and signed by Dr. J. Russell Davey under date of January 31st, which you will see is addressed to our Company's Plant at Easton.

You will note that he has taken roentgenograms of [REDACTED], one of our Easton employees, and has definitely stated that "all of the films show osteosclerosis previously described and considered to be as a result of fluoride poisoning."

You can imagine my consternation in receiving copy of this letter from our Production Manager here in Philadelphia, who was sent a copy of Dr. Davey's letter by our Easton Plant Superintendent. Doubtless, this letter has been widely discussed at our Plant and is evidence of extremely poor tact, to say the least, on the part of Drs. Pillmore and Davey.

These new physicians were recommended by Mr. Largent as substitute for Dr. Smyth and, on his recommendation, we approved Dr. Pillmore for continuance of x-ray work with our Easton employees.

You will recall that heretofore we have requested all x-ray photographs to be sent to Dr. Bovard at Tarentum for interpretation and conclusions. We assumed that this policy would be followed in the case of Dr. Smyth's successor. We are not sure that Dr. Bovard will agree with conclusions reached by Drs. Pillmore and Davey. You will recall that previous conclusions of other physicians in interpreting such x-ray pictures were not verified by Dr. Bovard, who is generally considered to be most authoritative in this field.

It is necessary that we prevent a recurrence of this unfortunate incident. All such correspondence and any conclusions drawn from outside work should be handled in the manner previously followed.

We would appreciate your taking this matter up directly with Drs. Pillmore and Davey for explanation as to their actions in this case. We would also appreciate your taking the necessary steps to prevent recurrence of this. Perhaps, you will wish to make other arrangements. Certainly, we cannot continue

Dr. R. A. Kehoe

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our x-ray program planned for Easton employees if it is to be handled in this way.

In any case, please arrange to have roentgenograms of [redacted] forwarded to Dr. Bovard and let us have his interpretations and conclusions on these as soon as possible.

We hate to write in the above vein, but you can appreciate the seriousness of this situation to us, primarily in the way it has been handled and the lack of following previously approved procedures.

Very truly yours,



S. C. Ogburn, Jr.
Manager, Research and
Development Department

SCGJr:ADG
Enc. 1

(Copy)

George Utley Pillmore, M. D.
James Russell Davey, M. D.
Department of Radiology
Easton Hospital
Easton, Pennsylvania

January 31, 1947

Pennsylvania Salt Co.
Hellertown Rd.
Easton, Pennsylvania

In Re: [REDACTED]

Gentlemen:

We have made roentgenograms of the entire spine, the skull and the pelvis and the rib cage. All of the films show osteosclerosis previously described and considered to be as a result of fluoride poisoning. The films are available upon request.

Thank you for the privilege of examining this patient for you.

Very truly yours,

(signed) J. Russell Davey, M. D.

February 12, 1947

Mr. S. C. Ogburn, Jr.,
Manager, Research and Development Department,
Pennsylvania Salt Manufacturing Company,
1000 Widener Building,
Philadelphia 7, Pennsylvania.

Dear Mr. Ogburn:

I have your letter of February 10 and have proceeded without delay to straighten out the apparent misunderstanding of Dr. Pillmore of Easton Hospital in the matter of the conduct of the work which we have wished him to do to assist us in our experimental program. I believe we shall be able to arrange matters so that there will be no repetition of this incident. On the other hand, I think I can understand Dr. Pillmore's attitude, and I feel quite sure that he merely considered that he was conducting himself along proper professional lines. In general it might well be assumed by a professional man that your plant management wished to have all of the information concerning its employees at first-hand. I feel quite certain also that his use of the expression quoted in your letter was not regarded by him as synonymous with illness or actual disability. If you will recall the remarks of Dr. Bovard, you will remember that he spoke of the X-Ray shadows as evidence of "fluorine intoxication" despite the fact that he disclaimed any belief that the lesions were an indication of any illness or disability. This is merely an unfortunate choice of verbal expression. It is met with in a number of clinical conditions, and although one makes every effort to avoid such situations, they continue to crop up.

I can well imagine that your people were somewhat disturbed over this situation, and I trust we shall be able to avoid future difficulties of this sort.

I take this occasion to confirm the fact that Mr. Largent and I will be in Philadelphia on next Monday. Unfortunately Dr. Heyroth is occupied elsewhere and cannot be with us.

Cordially yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

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