

¹⁰ Aaes-Jorgensen E, Funch JP, Dam JH. The role of fat in the diet of rats. 8. Influence on growth of shortening products, emulsifiers and polymerized linseed oil. *Br J Nutr* 1956; **10**: 317–24.

¹¹ Applewhite TH. Nutritional effects of hydrogenated soya oil. *J Am Oil Chem Soc* 1981; **58**: 260–9.

Note: This letter was shown to the authors of the article who do not wish to reply but they would agree with the last sentence of the letter above. *Editor.*

Effects of tap water lead, water hardness, alcohol, and cigarettes on blood lead concentrations

SIR—This recent contribution by S J Pocock *et al* (March 1983, 1–7) clearly shows the role of tap water and personal habits in raised blood lead concentrations. The authors, however, conclude by stating that “because direct evidence of a comparable

nature has not been shown for lead in petrol . . . lead in water should be given priority . . .” Petrol lead sales in Boston, Massachusetts, have been shown to correlate very well with blood lead concentrations.¹ We suggest that reduction in lead exposure requires attention to both air and water.

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References

¹Rabinowitz M, Needleman HL. Petrol lead sales and umbilical cord blood lead levels in Boston, Massachusetts. *Lancet* 1983; i: 63.

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