

# *Saturday Review*

380 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10017



*John Lear*  
Science Editor

April 9, 1969

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

Thank you for your letter of March 31, with its permission to reprint all of your first Washington Post column on fluoridated water and part of the second column.

Let me call your attention, however, to two facts:

First, I did not criticize the United States Public Health Service for failing to publicize the Vancouver reports, but for failing to publicize the earlier reports of scientific work done in our own country. I feel entirely justified in this attitude, especially since officials of the United States Public Health Service have been writing letters saying that I misrepresented the facts in my reports on fluoridation.

Second, I did not compare chronic exposure to small amounts of fluoride with the acute flushing of hemodialysis. On the contrary, I drew a careful distinction between the two and then asked a question. Again, I feel justified in asking this question and will insist upon asking it until someone really looks into it.

You may wish to go more deeply into the literature on the issue of fluoride's benefit in treatment of weakened bone. From my reading of the literature, I would say that the evidence is beginning to go against Fred Stare and his group of originators of this idea.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joshua Lederberg  
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JL:dm  
cc: Mr. Howard Simons  
The Washington Post