

The diary of a lead pencil

This poster, issued by the Kansas State Board of Health, is aimed at teaching children about the spread of diseases. The reverse side has instructions "To the teacher" with questions for discussion to promote understanding.

Creator: Kansas State Board of Health

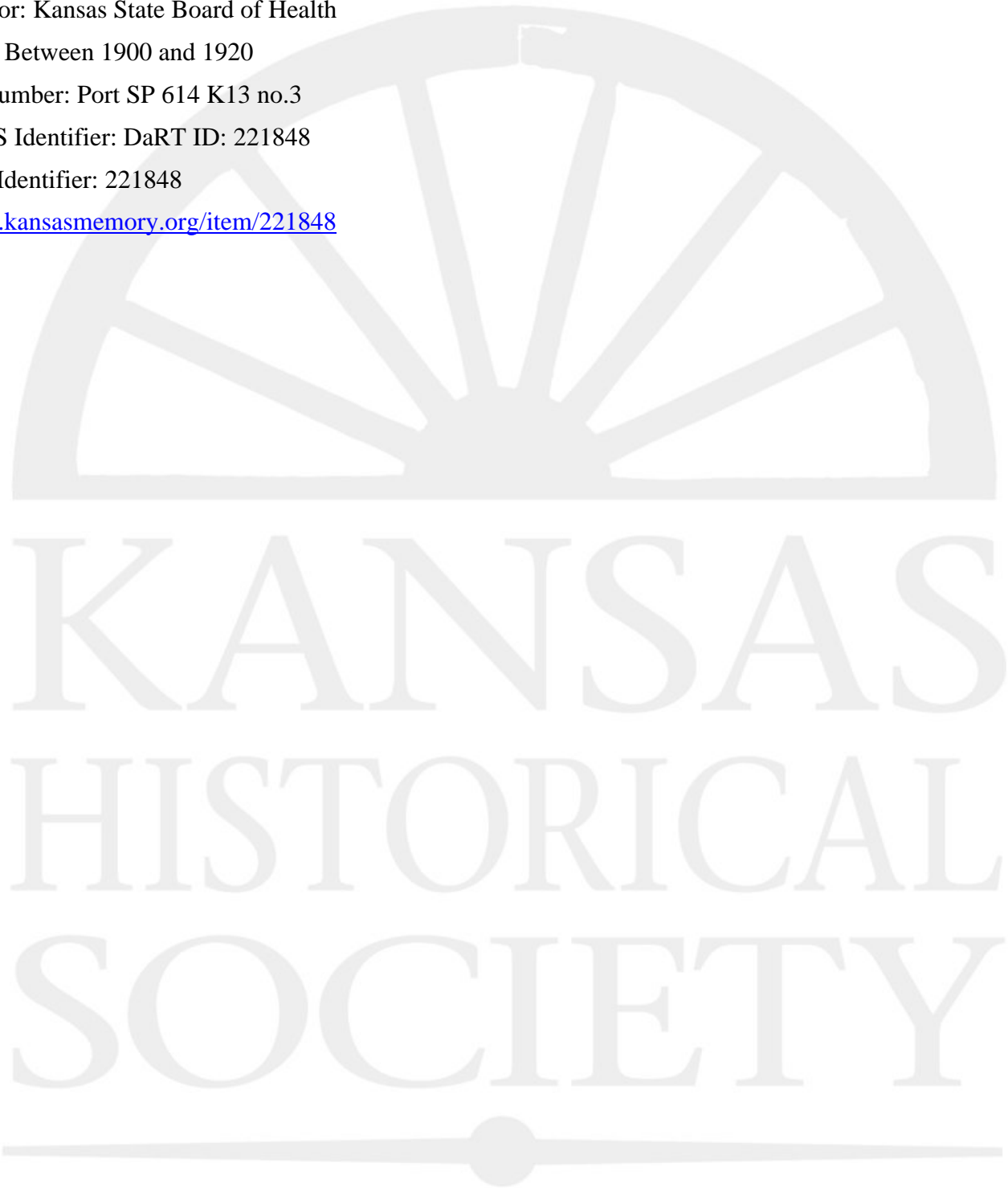
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The diary of a lead pencil

Post. 4
SP
614
K13
no. 3

THE DIARY OF A LEAD PENCIL



MONDAY MORNING: Johnnie Jones bought me this morning and is using me to work his problems, but every few minutes he puts me in his mouth. I do not see how that helps, but maybe it does.

MONDAY AFTERNOON: Johnnie loaned me to Mable Brown. She keeps me in her mouth most of the time. Her mouth is very warm and there are little white spots on her throat.



TUESDAY: Mable did not come to school today and the teacher is asking the children if any of them have a sore throat—but she does not look at their throats to see.



WEDNESDAY: Johnnie dropped me on the floor and Will Black picked me up and took me home. His baby sister is playing with me now, but I do wish she would quit putting me in her mouth.

THURSDAY: Will Black is using me today. Johnnie does not know where I am. Will keeps me in his mouth nearly all the time and chews on me. I do not like his mouth. It smells bad and his teeth are full of such ugly, black holes.



FRIDAY: Johnnie found me this morning. He did not use me much today, but when he put me in his mouth it was hot and his throat was all red, but I did not see any white spots like I saw in Mable's throat. Johnnie brought me home with him and dropped me on the floor and I rolled under the table and hid, because I am tired of being put into people's mouths.

SUNDAY: I stayed under the table all day Saturday but I heard Mrs. Jones say she was afraid Johnnie was not very well, and this morning he is awfully sick. I just heard the doctor say: "He probably got it from that lead pencil he loaned to Mable Brown." I believe he blames me for Johnnie being sick.



The doctor says he does not know how the Black baby got it but I think I do. Johnnie's baby brother crawled under the table and found me and poked me up his nose. Mrs. Jones saw him and jerked me away. She says she is going to burn me up. I hope she does, for I must be a very bad pencil; but I was not made to put into mouths and Johnnie should not have loaned me to anyone.

PUTTING PENCILS IN THE MOUTH SPREADS DISEASES.

KANSAS STATE BOARD OF HEALTH

M. Reill

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TO THE TEACHER.

If the health of our people is to be preserved and improved, the children must learn the principles involved in the preservation of health. They should begin to learn this at home, but certainly it is highly essential that the teaching along this line should begin with the very first lessons in school life.

We hand you herewith a card that we believe will interest the children, from which you may present several lessons. We also submit the following questions, which will probably tend to bring out the degree to which the children have grasped the idea.

1. How many children were made sick by Johnnie's lead pencil?
2. How many children may have been made sick by the pencil?
3. How could his lead pencil make anyone sick?
4. Why do people put pencils in their mouths?
5. Do you put your pencil in your mouth?
6. Will you ever again put a pencil in your mouth?
7. What other things do children put in their mouths which may cause sickness?
8. Will you ever again put your fingers, or money, or other children's whistles, mouth organs, and so forth, in your mouth?

KANSAS STATE BOARD OF HEALTH.