ists from breathing the polluted air. "I would call it a potential problem with the accent on potential," said Vincent Guinee, director of New York's lead poisoning prevention program.

Guinee points to a lack of correlation between those areas of the city high in atmospheric lead and the cases he discovers through his screening program. Moreover, the incidence of lead poisoning peaks in 2-year-old children —in apparent correlation with their chewing habits. If the lead were coming simply from environmental exposure, reasons Guinee, the incidence would increase with age. Guinee and other city officials are reluctant to jump to any conclusions concerning Joshua and Natasha because of the variety of substances that contain lead, including pencil paint, some house paints sold as lead-free, and a variety of substances such as certain plastics used in children's toys. Also, a good deal of the lead in the dirt and dust in the city originates when old housing is torn down.

Less skeptical about the danger from lead in the air is a group of parents, calling themselves the "Get the Lead Out Committee," who banded together following the discovery of high concentrations of lead in the blood of middle-class children. "It's clear to me," said Paul Du Brul, an assistant to the Bronx Borough president and spokesman for the group, "that there are too damn many kids with too damn much lead in their bodies."

The Get the Lead Out Committee is pressing the city to initiate a massive program to sample the air at ground level and correlate the findings with epidemiological data on lead levels. City officials say they would undertake such a study if they had the staff funds. The committee also intends to keep up the pressure to get lead removed from gasoline. Says Du Brul, "We have to say no to the automobile industry. We've already done inestimable damage to our children."

The possible effects of subclinical doses of lead in children's bodies remain virtually unknown. Yet because of the wide range of effects on the body caused by higher dosages of lead, some pediatricians fear that the lead is unlikely to be totally harmless.

Moreover, studies have shown that lead does accumulate in the bodies of adults (in the United States, but not abroad) the longer they live. And this accumulation may be passed on from generation to generation. Shirhari Sakahadeo and Joseph Kochen, pediatricians at the Martin Lurther King Health Center in the Bronx, are testing a number of newborn babies and finding most of them with lead concentrations of 20 and 30 micrograms per 100 milligrams of blood—concentrations similar to those found in their mothers. Thus children born in an urban environment may carry an elevated concentration of lead from birth, and thus be more susceptible to contamination from any source.

Added to the accumulation of lead from a steady environment is the problem that the concentration of lead in the air is actually increasing in several locations. Preliminary data from the industry-supported Seven Cities Study of Air and Population Lead Levels reveal that between 1961–62 and 1968–69 airborne lead concentrations at some sampling stations rose by as much as 32 percent in Cincinnati, 35 percent in Philadelphia, and 64 percent in Los Angeles. A recent study of the air on a mountain above San Diego shows the level to be rising by 5 percent per year. Isomeric studies of this airborne lead indicate that virtually all of it is the product of emissions from internal combustion engines.

Clearly, lead in the air presents a hazard—if not now, then in the near future. The next move is up to the EPA, with the new lead-control regulations to be published next month. Removal of lead from gasoline would involve massive economic considerations, and the EPA regulations, no matter how weak or how stringent, are likely to be the subject of intense squabbling for some time to come.

"And in the meantime," asks Mrs. Laura Sullivan, who is the head of the Get the Lead Out Committee, "just what is happening to the kids?"

—ROBERT J. BAZELL

Correction

An article in *Science* (29 October, page 479) which alluded critically to a political appointee to a State Department environmental advisory committee, incorrectly identified the appointee as Mrs. Bruce B. Benson, president of the League of Women Voters. *Science* regrets the error and any injury done to Mrs. Benson's reputation and that of the League, and recognizes that they play respected roles in many governmental issues.

APPOINTMENTS

Scott C. Daubin, chairman, ocean engineering department, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, to chairman, ocean engineering department, University of Miami. . . . **Hugh D. Graham**, acting director, Institute of Southern History, Johns Hopkins University, to chairman, social sciences division, University of Maryland, Baltimore County. . . . **Harry L. Holloway, Jr.**, professor of biology, Western Maryland College, to chairman, biology department, University of North Dakota. . . . **Jerome J. DeCosse**, professor of surgery, School of Medicine, Case Western Reserve University, to chairman, surgery division, Medical College of Wisconsin. . . . **Gilbert J. Mains**, professor of physics and chemistry, University of Detroit, to chairman, chemistry department, Oklahoma State University. . . . **Alexander Gottshalk**, professor of radiology, University of Chicago, to chairman, radiology department, biological sciences division at the university and the Pritzker School of Medicine. . . . **Clayton Rich**, associate dean for research and clinical affairs, University of Washington School of Medicine, to dean, Stanford University School of Medicine and vice president for medical affairs. . . . **Donald L. Kimmel, Jr.**, assistant professor of medical sciences, Brown University, to chairman, biology department, Davidson College. . . . **Ronald P. Kealy**, assistant professor of education, George Peabody College for Teachers, to chairman, education department, Frostburg State College. . . . **Kenneth G. Kersh**, dean, Pembroke State University, to chairman, education department, Hendrix College. . . . **Byong-suh L. Kim**, chairman, sociology department, Coe College, to chairman, sociology department, Montclair State College. . . . **Ellis R. Mottur**, director of the technology assessment project, George Washington University, to science adviser, Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare. . . . **Armand J. Silva**, associate professor of civil engineering, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, to head, civil engineering department at the institute. . . . **Harold Brody**, professor of anatomy, State University of New York, Buffalo, to chairman, anatomy department at the university. . . . **Russell C. Jones**, professor of civil engineering, M.I.T., to chairman, civil engineering department, Ohio State University.