

January 19, 1937

Mr. J. H. Schaefer
Ethyl Gasoline Corporation
Box 688
Wilmington, Delaware

Dear Mr. Schaefer:

In response to your telephone call of yesterday, I think it is well to give you my general point of view about the provisions which will have to be made for medical supervision in a French manufacturing plant. I have no doubt you have a copy of a memorandum made to you and Mr. Stecker on the occasion of your initial visit to Germany. I think this memorandum is still useful in calling attention to points of chief importance in the construction of the plant.

In view of our experiences in Germany, I think we have now a fairly good idea of what is required in a plant of approximately the same size as the German plant. The difficulty will be in the matter of personnel. We shall have to have a competent medical man and I think it will take some looking around to find exactly the kind of man we want. Incidentally it looks as though I shall have to be in Europe for a time during the coming summer, and I believe at that time it will be possible to arrange the details of the personnel, if indeed the project has gotten that far along by that time.

As far as the construction of medical facilities is concerned, it would seem to me to be necessary to provide medical quarters comparable to those available in the German plant. As to the equipment, I think this should be worked out later.

Requirements in the matter of medical and hygienic supervision may be listed under three headings:

1. There will have to be a systematic examination of the atmosphere of working space for the purpose of knowing exactly the basic exposure conditions to lead.

2. As a corollary to this it will be necessary to arrange laboratory facilities preferably at some point not too distant from the plant, such as a neighboring town or city, in which systematic examination of the excreta of workmen can be carried out.

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3. Facilities for medical examinations at regular intervals together with laboratory facilities for routine clinical work on blood and urine will have to be provided.

For your own information I am quite confident that the general point of view in French circles will be that French doctors know all about these things and will know exactly how they should be done. This will be found not to be the case. It will, therefore, be necessary for you to make it well understood that the details of medical supervision will have to be worked out in such a way as to meet with my approval. I am assuming, of course, that the Corporation will not enter into any agreement whereby it accepts any responsibility for the construction or operation of such a plant without reserving the right to dictate the details of construction, operation and medical supervision.

In connection with the analytical work on the excreta of workmen, we have reached the point in France where it will soon be necessary for reasons other than those associated with the manufacturing enterprise, to have suitable laboratory facilities. From time to time Dr. Coste finds it necessary to have clinical information of this kind. It seems to me it may be entirely feasible to combine these two activities in the hands of some one agency in order that we may obtain reliable results. I think it will be possible when I visit France this summer to discuss this whole matter with Coste, and to look into the entire situation in this regard. If we are able to find a laboratory with which we can collaborate, it will be very useful. If we can not find such a laboratory, it may be necessary to establish one on a basis somewhat similar to that of Dr. Dodds' arrangement in London. I am quite sure this problem will come up for discussion while you are there, and I think it is well to warn you that any venture in this field will have to be made very cautiously and I would suggest that you steer clear of making any commitments, leaving me to work out this matter the best way I can.

I can think of nothing further which I can add to what was said in our previous memorandum, but I hope what I have said above will be of some use to you. In conclusion I wish you a very pleasant voyage and also a very pleasant sojourn in France.

Sincerely yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.

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