

August 22, 1927.

Mr. J. G. Martin,
1829 West Grace St.,
Richmond, Va.

Dear Mr. Martin:

I received a letter from the New York office of the Ethyl Gasoline Corp., containing your letter concerning an operator at the Harvey System station.

Skin irritation and skin infection are very common among workmen in general. They are especially common among handlers of petroleum products for a variety of reasons, which have to do with the uncleanly habits of the men and the somewhat irritating character of the products. When such things are seen in the case of a man working with Ethyl Gasoline it is not surprising that some of the results should be attributed to the Ethyl Gasoline. However, there is no reason for believing that the Ethyl Fluid content of the gasoline has anything to do with the condition. We have investigated quite a few such complaints only to find that we were dealing with a common type of ordinary skin infection, which had no relation to the occupation.

If this man is worried he should see a doctor about his skin condition, preferably a skin specialist. Then if there is any reason for so doing, one of my staff can investigate the matter. Unless there is some question as to the diagnosis, however, there is no good purpose served by our intervention.

The important thing to remember, in these cases, is that several hundred men under our direct observation have handled Ethyl Gasoline in every way over a period of almost five years, without any evidence of skin injury or other illness.

Very truly yours,