

November 10, 1926.

Mr. C. F. Kettering,
c/o The Delco Light Company,
Dayton, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Kettering:

Following a conversation with Mr. Biechler, Dayton, a few days ago, I have discussed the matter of proposed experimental work on refrigerants with Fischer.

We are agreed as to the desirability of our undertaking such experimental studies, but the facilities for doing it are lacking. We are particularly crowded for space. The work on various phases of lead poisoning has expanded to such an extent as to use up completely all available space. So much so that I am put to the immediate necessity of obtaining more space for that work, and have discussed with the Ethyl Gasoline Corporation, some method of obtaining more.

Mr. Biechler indicated his willingness to provide space at Dayton or to rent it here in Cincinnati if possible. For reasons which will be obvious to you I am sure, I cannot undertake an experimental study at Dayton. You will remember, I am sure, some of the unsatisfactory qualities of our previous work at the plant in Dayton. Then too, I cannot spread my work over several points, and get satisfactory results. Almost the same objection holds here, for space at or near the Medical College is probably not available.

This type of work should be done not in an industrial laboratory but in a university and on a university basis, where no question of bias or undue influence can arise. Therein is the safety from suspicion or criticism, of both the experimenter and his results. I feel sure you will concur in this opinion, especially since you appreciated the feeling so eloquently present, and to some extent expressed, at the Conference in Washington, May 20, 1925.

This brings me to an idea which has been revolving in my brain for some months. Plainly some considerable amount of money must be spent in order to do the work which is necessary. A rather large amount has been and is being spent by the Ethyl Gasoline Corporation in the same direction, and must continue for some time. Space is needed for both sets of work. Rental is expensive, and equipment equally so and is to a large extent a dead loss after the completion of a set of experiments, if the site of experimentation is abandoned. For the amount of money spent in rental and equipment over a period of years, a very nice laboratory could be built, on University ground (at no cost) and could be a permanently operating source of toxicological and physiological information. Experimental work could be undertaken on specific problems, and on general problems, with the idea of having information available when needed, rather

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than after a prolonged period of waiting to obtain it.

There are a great number and variety of physiological problems in industry which involve the health of employees and public. What an importance such problems can assume is illustrated by the history of tetraethyl lead (which is not yet a closed problem).

The establishing of a laboratory for the systematic and accurate investigation of these problems requires money, but little more than is being spent and is proposed to be spent, on certain specific problems such as the one suggested in your letter. The development of this idea to its logical conclusion would be a service to industrial medium and public health medium, which would be outstanding and unique.

It strikes me that the importance and magnitude of the work we are doing, and that of the work you suggest doing, brings up the immediate question of the desirability of making a move in this direction now. Such a program would have to be worked out in its details and presented to the Board of Trustees of the University for their consideration. Further the laboratory so suggested would need to be the unqualified property of the University, and all work done in it would have to be done on a strict university basis.

I have no doubt, from the attitude expressed and shown toward the Ethyl Gasoline work, that permission for the establishment of such a laboratory, would be readily granted. Further, I believe that sufficient support from other industries would naturally gravitate toward such a program, so that the expense of its maintenance need not be burdensome on any one group.

To what extent do you believe would the groups who are concerned in our present and proposed work, be agreeable to enter into such a program?

I should appreciate very much, indeed, before making any further move in considering the work proposed by yourself and Mr. Kiechler, to know your reaction, and the probable reaction of the Companies concerned with our work, to such a program.

I write this because the problem of space and facilities is an immediately acute one for us, and because I am looking to some quick and permanent solution of it.

With kindest regards.

Cordially yours,