

March 22, 1927.

Mr. H. R. Boehmer, Supt.,  
Standard Oil Co Refinery,  
Sugar Creek, Mo.

Dear Sir:

No doubt you have received by this time an express package containing a jar and gallon jug on which are labels with the name of one of your employees, Mr. H. D. Dyer. These were sent some days ago with the idea of obtaining from Mr. Dyer a sample of faeces and a large sample of urine for analysis at this laboratory. The specimen of faeces should be obtained directly into the jar, and should be a moderately large sample. The urine sample should be not less than two days excretion. Great care should be taken that no contamination of either specimen be had as a result of any externally introduced material. Our purpose in obtaining these specimens is to compare them with former observations on the excretion of lead on the part of Mr. Dyer.

You will remember that on the occasion of the last visit to your plant there was some suggestion of symptoms as the result of the absorption of lead. There is no occasion for any anxiety as to Mr. Dyer's condition, but it is decidedly to our mutual advantage to know at this time just what quantity of lead is being excreted. This we will be able to do, I am sure, without producing any anxiety in the mind of your employee, and I should appreciate very much if you would obtain these specimens at your earliest convenience. It is needless, I assume, to suggest that nothing be said or done in connection with them to indicate that there is any fear on our part of any actual lead poisoning in this man.

This incident brings me to point out to you, unnecessarily perhaps, the unsatisfactory quality of the type of mixing equipment which has been employed at your plant. I am sure that you will find the new type of equipment much more satisfactory in every way, and I wish to urge that the old type of equipment be used, even in emergency, as little as possible. It is our purpose in the near future to dismantle and do away with all mixing equipment which have made use of the hand pump. I am sure that we do not need to argue with you the benefit of such a course. In case the opportunity presents itself, I should be very glad indeed if you would point out to those in charge, possible dangers in the use of the old mixing equipment. The fact is that I can not

Mr. H. R. Boekmer.

but say this development at your plant is the means of bringing some pressure to bear in our present problem of disposing as soon as possible of all of the old types of mixing equipment. When we shall have done this we will have removed at one stroke all of the conditions which need to give us any anxiety as to the condition and health of men in general who are mixing Ethyl Fluid with gasoline.

Very truly yours,

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