

May 15, 1950

Dr. John E. Wright,
Standard Oil Development Company,
P. O. Box 243, Elizabeth B,
New Jersey.

Dear Doctor Wright:

I am sending you containers for the collection of samples of blood and urine from Mr. [REDACTED] referred to in your letter of May 9, since it appears that there is some question in your mind concerning the potential exposure to lead on the part of this man in the course of his work.

May I say, in all personal and professional courtesy, that you do not, it seems, have quite the correct idea as to the role of such analyses? Our purpose is that of measuring the extent of the lead absorption as a means of measuring any risk that may be attached to the occupation. If Mr. [REDACTED] is taking proper precautions, he should have no exposure to lead in his work. If there is any doubt on this score, it is necessary that his manner of working be investigated, criticized and corrected.

With respect to the potential absorption of tetraethyl lead, as differentiated from that of inorganic lead compounds, there are no blood changes of any kind that have any relevance. No such changes occur even in fatal tetraethyl lead intoxication. Your finding of an apparent leucopenia suggests the possibility of exposure to benzene (C_6H_6), and if I were responsible for this man, I should look into that possibility with great care.

Cordially yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

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