

Copy to Mr. Lewis

March 18, 1938

Mr. D. H. Lee
101 West General Robinson Street
N.S. Pittsburgh
Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Lee:-

Your letter of February 16th addressed to the Ethyl Gasoline Corporation has been brought to my attention. I am somewhat slow in replying to it by reason of my absence from my office for the past two weeks.

I think, perhaps, you are somewhat in error in your belief that information has been issued by any representative of the Ethyl Gasoline Corporation with reference to a specific means of handling Ethyl Gasoline in order to prevent poisoning to service station employees. Actually as the chief medical consultant of the Ethyl Gasoline Corporation and as the person most experienced in this field of medicine, I may say that not only have I never seen a case of lead poisoning in service station employees, but I am quite confident that no cases of lead poisoning have ever developed as a consequence of contact with the handling of leaded gasoline. There is no reason to believe that lead is absorbed through the skin out of gasoline, nor is there any reason to believe that absorption takes place through cuts or injuries to the skin. On the other hand open cuts often become infected and fail to heal promptly and properly. It is quite probable that this is what has happened in the case which you mention. Such a wound should be treated in the same fashion any other infected wound would be, regardless of the question of contact with gasoline, and I feel quite confident that the doctor in this case will treat the wound in this manner, and that it will clear up in the usual fashion if it is given proper medical treatment. If the employee in question will consult his doctor and will ask his doctor to communicate with me, I should be very glad to give him such suggestions as I can for the treatment. However, I doubt if any such suggestions will be necessary. In any case I trust you will be assured by what I have said that this is not a case of lead poisoning and that the

effect of leaded gasoline in such a wound is of no consequence in relation to the healing process. If your employee is not in position to consult a doctor further, he may feel quite at liberty to write to me direct and I will give him such advice as I can although, obviously, it is not wise to attempt to treat ailments and injuries at a distance.

Very truly yours,

RAK:is

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.