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OUR REF. K.2.

YOUR REF.

DATE 12th June, 1951.

Dr. R.A. Kehoe,
Kettering Laboratory of Applied Physiology,
University of Cincinnati,
College of Medicine,
Eden Avenue,
CINCINNATI,
Ohio,
U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Kehoe,

Fast upon my last letter, I beg to make use of your generous invitation in the case of any questions I might wish to raise on the subject of T.E.L.

Since my last letter, I have been approached on two small points, on both of which opinions seem to differ. The first is, in considering the standards of health for men employed in tank cleaning and petrol blending, whether or not perforated ear drums are an absolute contra-indication. It has been suggested in American publications, and has been the practice in this country, to regard this condition as being a potential danger of lead absorption, on the grounds that in inspiring, a certain current of air is carried through the auditory apparatus. I have not yet read of any cases where this has been shown or suspected, and I wonder if old perforations are, in fact, sources of actual danger, or whether this is a purely theoretical opinion. As we develop Ellesmere Port, there will, no doubt, be increasing difficulties in employing men of a standard of fitness comparable with that which we have maintained at Northwich, and similarly there are employees of other firms who may be required for cleaning and blending purposes who may have such perforations. In both these cases the question would arise as to whether they must be rejected for employment in these spheres.

The other question raised was the value of British Anti-Lewisite (Dimercaptopropanol) in the treatment of T.E.L. poisoning. I have no evidence that it has been used in this country for this purpose, nor in any experiments during the investigation of B.A.L. I have one small piece of information from Dr. Davison, which states that B.A.L. is contra-indicated at all times, and would be grateful if you could confirm or deny this point for me.

With thanks, and apologies for troubling you again.

Yours sincerely,