

June 4, 1935

Dr. Graham Edgar
Ethyl Gasoline Corporation
Chrysler Building
New York City
New York

My dear Edgar:

With regard to the use of aniline in aviation gasoline, I am disposed to have the same point of view that I have with regard to Ethyl Fluid. If it were entirely necessary either one of these materials could be handled with a reasonable safety provided one could put into effect certain precautionary measures and have them uniformly carried out. The latter proviso is a very dubious one, however, even under the best of circumstances. I therefore feel that it is reasonably certain that if aniline or concentrated solutions of it are handled in the manner suggested, there will be cases of aniline intoxication. Therefore I should be inclined to discourage as much as possible the whole idea of its use in this manner. If there are technical reasons why it seems imperative to do this, the question of precautions will naturally arise. In as much as it would seem to be impossible for the Ethyl Corporation to prevent the use of aniline for this purpose (since I believe that patents which are not worked can not be protected), I wonder if it would not be advisable to have it understood that the Corporation assumes no responsibility for the results of the exploitation of this idea. Naturally under any circumstances I should be entirely willing to give such advice as I can on the means of avoiding any ill effects from the use of such a material. Perhaps my reaction is somewhat conditioned by the fact that I conceive of the present hygienic difficulties of the Ethyl Gasoline Corporation as being quite a sufficient burden for it to carry in this field, and I should like as well as I can to protect its interests by the avoidance of any further or unnecessary difficulties.

I shall probably be in New York soon and I should be glad to discuss this whole matter further. However this presents my initial reaction to the proposition.

Dr. Graham Edgar

As to your postscript with reference to "developing a safe device for injecting Ethyl Fluid", I rather suspect you of being facetious. If my suspicions are at fault, I shall probably be corrected in due time.

With kindest personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

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Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.

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