

National Industrial Conference Board #2

Now it is my opinion that it is impossible properly to investigate industrial intoxications except as one has a responsibility for persons who are actually doing the work. One must be able to control the activities of industrial workers to a very considerable degree, or at least he must be acquainted with their activities in detail in order to fully appreciate the investigative problem. As a consequence of this opinion I have been able to obtain the services of several good physicians who work under my direction, and who assume the responsibility for the medical care of men who are engaged in all aspects of the production and distribution of tetraethyl lead and ETHYL fluid. The men who actually do the medical work have a direct responsibility to the Ethyl Gasoline Corporation and are only connected with the University laboratory if they happen in addition to their medical work to be doing experimental work. At the same time, the field of their medical operation constitutes as it were an experimental field for the laboratory. It is possible in this way to make observations which are not otherwise possible, and we have been able to make advantageous scientific use of the information which we have been able to obtain on the men under our care. Thus the arrangement is as follows. The Ethyl Gasoline Corporation has an organized medical department which has no official connection with the University of Cincinnati. The staff of the Kettering Laboratory is distinct from the Medical Department of the Corporation, is engaged in experimental work of a purely theoretical type as well as of medical and public health type. It operates strictly in a proper field of University work, engages in no work of commercial character, has no conditions put upon it by any industry in the way of nature of work or publication, while at the same time deriving its financial support and a portion of its experimental field from the industries in whose fields it happens to be working.

The laboratory is therefore not in position to offer medical services to industries. However, in the case of any problem which it undertakes to investigate in an industrial field, it can obtain physicians who will take care of the industrial medical work on their own responsibility and at the same time cooperate fully with the laboratory in providing information and opportunities for experimental studies. The laboratory derives none of its support from medical work. Any medical work which is done by any of the staff being a private and personal matter between the physician and the industrial management.

National Industrial Conference Board #3

At the present time on this sort of a basis, the members of our staff are doing medical work for the Ethyl Gasoline Corporation, the Frigidaire Corporation, and the E. I. duPont de Nemours and Company.

I trust that the above description of our activities gives you a clear idea of how the laboratory is operated. It is obvious that under this sort of an arrangement it is difficult, if not impossible, to carry along many problems at one and the same time. It is our purpose to have means of investigating thoroughly and in great detail a few problems which interest us and which we regard of a sufficient scientific and public health importance to merit our interest, rather than to attempt to touch lightly a good many different fields. Some members of my staff have scientific interests not exactly identical with my own. I expect to spend the greater part of my scientific life investigating the problem of heavy metal poisoning with special reference to lead.

Very truly yours,

RAK:EJ