

June 7, 1937

Dr. E. VanBrunt Ferguson
Baldwin
New York

Dear Doctor Ferguson:

Some time ago I received a notation through Tide Water Associated Oil Company to the effect that one of their employees, Mr. [REDACTED], had a type of illness which had been diagnosed as lead intoxication. On further inquiry into the matter, I received information through a member of the medical staff of Tide Water to the effect that Mr. [REDACTED] had stated that his doctor had told him that he suspected that lead absorption was responsible for his physical condition. On further inquiry I was given your name and address as Mr. [REDACTED] physician.

Perhaps I should explain that as the chief medical consultant of the Ethyl Gasoline Corporation, I have not only advised the Corporation in medical matters but have also had the responsibility of investigating and reporting to the United States Public Health Service all cases of illness or complaints arising from the use of leaded gasoline. In carrying on such investigations over a period of years, we have failed to find any evidence either of lead poisoning or lead absorption among men who work with leaded gasoline. Therefore it seems rather improbable, after this period of time, that a case of lead poisoning should originate. Moreover I am fully aware of the fact that patients often misquote their doctors. In any case, it seemed wiser to me to write to you for further information about Mr. [REDACTED] and for an expression of your opinion than to make a special trip in order to make a personal investigation of this case. If there is anything in Mr. [REDACTED] condition which now or at any other time has suggested lead absorption as a factor in his illness, I should appreciate it very much indeed if you would tell me about it so that I can look further into the matter. If, on the other hand, Mr. [REDACTED] is merely suffering from one of the dermatoses which are not infrequently associated with contact with petroleum products, as well as gasoline, I shall be spared the necessity of further examination

Dr. E. VanBrunt Ferguson

into the facts. I shall be glad to have any information that you find it possible to give me in connection with his illness. I enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope for your convenience.

Very truly yours,

RAK:is

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.

KE 0011446