

The Standard Oil Company

(An Ohio Corporation)

Sales Department

*A. M. Maxwell, Vice President
Director of Sales*

Cleveland, O.

February 28, 1933

Dr. Robert Kehoe
College of Medicine
University of Cincinnati
Cincinnati, Ohio

Dear "Doc":

Mr. Payton, the head of our Personnel and Training Department, has just brought to my attention a case of an ex-service station employee of ours at Cincinnati that some of your assistants have been using as an experimental subject for dermatitis and its effects from contact with fumes of gasoline.

This man, [REDACTED] by name, worked at one of our service stations at Cincinnati until July 13, 1932, at which time he was laid off and placed on our Employees' Mutual Benefit Association rolls, due to the fact that our doctor in Cincinnati, as well as his doctor, Dr. Ducasse, diagnosed the skin trouble on the man's hands and arms as dermatitis. This man we carried on our E.M.B.A. from July 13 until October 1932. The man's condition was brought to the attention of Dr. Machle, who stated that his condition was very interesting and that he would like to utilize him for further experimentation on gasoline fumes at your laboratory, and agreed, after we both had the man's acquiescence to make the experiment, to carry him on your payroll.

The report that we have states that after the man's arms were exposed to fumes of gasoline over a short period of time dermatitis increased to such an extent that experimentation had to be stopped and the man was sent to the hospital where he languished until the middle of January, at which time Dr. Machle said he was able to go home. He remained at home recuperating until the latter part of February at which time Dr. Machle said he was physically in such shape as to be discharged, and did so, and paid him until February 25.

From information that our Cincinnati manager has the man is not completely well, although he is recovering, and we feel that until such time as he is fully recovered your company should bear his payroll expense. We say this for two reasons - one is that undoubtedly the man's condition was augmented by his further contact due to the experimentation in your laboratory, and secondly, which is even more important, we do not want this man to get disgruntled and go to some shyster lawyer starting a suit, which would be very bad both for the Ethyl Corporation and our company, as undoubtedly the first thing the lawyer would do would be to try to lay his troubles to contact with Ethyl gasoline; and even though the man agreed orally (there was nothing in writing) to be experimented upon, we have no proof of this other than his oral statement.

My reason for writing you was that I thought perhaps you had been so busy that you did not know personally about this situation, as it has always been the policy of the Ethyl Corporation, at least while I was with them and I am sure it is the same now, to be very careful about leaving loose ends where men may get out and bring law suits, unjustified as they might be, which would be embarrassing both to Ethyl and to the goodwill of Ethyl's customers. Be that as it may, I would like to have your views in the matter aside from the moral or technical standpoint. Will you be so good, when convenient, as to drop me a few lines about this.

With very best wishes,

Sincerely yours,



AMM:HW

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