

ETHYL CORPORATION

MANUFACTURING DEPARTMENT

July 3, 1973

PLEASE ADDRESS REPLY
TO: BOX 341
BATON ROUGE, LA. 70821

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.
Kettering Laboratory
Eden & Bethesda Avenues
Cincinnati, Ohio 45219

Dear Dr. Kehoe:

Your comments about lack of appreciation by management and lay supervision of medical achievements are interesting and, of course, quite true. However, I must say that my own experience in industry to date has provided a reasonable amount of satisfaction from this source.

Early in my medical training I was taken aback by the reactions of individual patients to medical care. Those individuals who receive essentially routine care for essentially routine problems often exhibit embarrassingly excessive gratitude--and others, whose challenging diagnostic and therapeutic problems require considerable effort and skill to manage, often show absolutely no awareness of what they have received (and, in fact, not infrequently complain strongly about some trivial discomfort or inconvenience involved in their care). I soon realized, of course, that patients really have no way to properly judge the professional performance of their physicians.

In contrast, members of management often are in a position to form somewhat reasonable, objective judgments as to the job being done by the physician in industry. It is true that they usually appreciate only a small fraction of the physician's work, and at times may make errors in their judgments--but overall, they have a better track record than can be claimed by individual patients. In short, I have been mildly but pleasantly surprised by the degree of understanding and appreciation that I have received from management people in regard to my professional activities.

Nevertheless, I will have to admit that my grandmother was correct with her frequently-repeated adage: "If you work for 'thanks' in this world, you'll be poorly paid." Professional satisfaction is, indeed, sufficient.

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I am sure that you realize that the summary report "Medical Observations on Lead Antiknock Workers" is directed to a management (lay) audience and that much important information has been omitted. In particular, the stated lack of correlation between atmospheric levels of lead and levels of lead excretion in the urine of workers is not derived from the data presented in Graphs 2, 3 and 4--which show a degree of positive correlation between atmospheric measurements and group means (averages) for lead in urine. As you are well aware, this correlation vanishes when data for atmospheric measurements are plotted against the lead in urine of individual workers.

I have found it very interesting--and very educational--to work with the ingredients planted, nurtured, harvested and stored over the years by the actions of yourself, Dr. Bock, and many others. The "pudding" that has resulted from the combination of these ingredients is as sturdy and nourishing as my ability and the ingredients allow. I have added no artificial flavoring or artificial sweeteners, so far as I am aware. The actual taste of the pudding is a matter for each to judge on his own, of course.

Sincerely,



Theodore R. Robinson, M.D., I.M.D.
Plant Medical Director

TRR:dp

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