

COPY

August 9, 1926.

E. W. Webb.

Mr. T. J. Hoynes, Superintendent,
Standard Oil Company (Kentucky),
Savannah, Ga.

Dear Sir:

Our Dr. Kitzmiller has just reported to us that in his examination of men at all points recently covered by him in his tour of inspection, showed them to be in good condition and not affected at all by Ethyl fluid, excepting three men who worked for your company; they are Judson Lowrey, R. L. Brown and C. (or O.) L. Freeman, that he found these men with symptoms of lead absorption.

I would like to emphasize the imperative need of your not allowing any of these men under any circumstances to work with or immediately around the mixing equipment, or any of the fluid ~~not~~ no matter where it is located - that is to say, they should not handle or come in contact with any equipment or containers that have had Ethyl fluid in them. It is advisable when men have the symptoms of these men, to see to it that they are entirely disconnected from any possible contamination either by breathing the vapor or having any of the fluid come in contact with their persons. Also, it is important that these men should spend as much time out of doors as possible. Of course, it is not a good plan to frighten them but would like to suggest that you so arrange for their work as to afford them as much opportunity as possible to get back to normal.

Dr. Kitzmiller advises me that he understands these men are those who have been working with the small pump which has been installed for a long time and which has apparently been leaking in various places. We have issued strict instructions to our inspectors to correct any leaks that they might find, and also have urged our customers not to permit their men to work on pumps which were leaking. This is one of the most stringent rules which our Medical Department has put out because our experience has been sufficient to justify us in the belief that one of the worst things that can happen to one of the men working with the fluid, is the belief on his part that because he has not felt any harmful effects that he can more or less ignore the fact that the vapors and skin contact may produce dangerous results if breathed or absorbed in appreciable quantities; so I cannot too strongly urge that this matter should receive attention, and I sincerely hope that you will not construe these suggestions as impertinent or an attempt to interfere with the operation of your business. It is being done because of the extreme importance of prompt action in the protection of these men. If put on other work, particularly on the outside, there is no reason why they should not readily be restored to a condition that will not show any symptoms.

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