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8th December, 1939.

Dr. R.A. Kehoe,
Dept. of Physiology,
College of Medicine,
University of Cincinnati,
Cincinnati,
Ohio, U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Kehoe,

I wish to thank you for your letter of the 16th November in which you replied so thoroughly to the many queries with which I have pestered you of late.

If I can be of any help to you in getting the Cambridge people over here to carry out tests with the Polarograph on samples which you might have to examine on a routine basis I would only be too pleased to approach them. The Research Department of the Cambridge Instrument Company are extremely cordial and I have no doubt that they would be most interested purely from a scientific point of view to carry out any tests.

I would like to suggest tentatively that you might care to prepare a set of standard samples which are identified with known quantities of lead in whatever form you are likely to find it. These could act as controls. You might then give them a series of coded samples, the lead content of which would be unknown to them in order to see if they could give you the correct answers. I know nothing whatsoever scientifically about the process but I imagine that some difficulties might be met with solutions of lead in various organic forms as opposed to inorganic solutions.

With regard to the translation of the booklets and placards into various foreign languages, I will go into the matter thoroughly with Ray and see what we have decided upon. The French are definitely going through, and we obtained a small supply from Germany prior to the outbreak of war. It really rests to make a decision as to whether it is worth while to reprint the German version over here. I have the Regulations in Dutch and Danish, and I am

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just sending you a single copy of each herewith in case you may wish to have them on your files.

I have passed on to the Standard American Petroleum Company of Antwerp your observations on the deposits from rail tank cars which they were concerned about.

I was certainly very interested indeed in Dr. Calingaert's report on the effectiveness of the various reagents for neutralising tetraethyl lead. I must confess that it comes as rather a blow to me that the slurry of bleaching lime is so ineffective even when used in great excess as was done on the sample, namely, 50 grams of lime to neutralise 1 gram of TEL. The information on the Eau de Javel is also rather interesting and I have passed this on to Thenault. I am afraid that in our contacts with our customer companies we have always rather left the decision as to whether bleaching lime or sulphuryl chloride should be kept available merely for their convenience as to obtaining a ready source of supply. The Blue Book of Regulations rather leaves these two alternatives perfectly open. It is not clear from the report on experiment No.6 using sulphuryl chloride if this reagent was employed in its pure state or in a 5% kerosene solution as we recommend. I have always had the impression that the reaction is so violent that there is a danger of fire if SO_2Cl_2 is used in any great degree of concentration.

In the future I think there is a very strong case to recommend that a supply of sulphuryl chloride shall be kept for any major spillage, but since this is most unpleasant stuff to handle it is best for it to be kept in sealed glass bottles to cover such an emergency. To deal with the minor drops of Fluid which might be spilt kerosene and bleaching lime are obviously much more convenient.

As I expect this letter will arrive round about Christmas time may I take this opportunity of extending my sincere greetings to both Mrs. Kehoe and yourself.

Yours very truly,


H. FOSSETT.

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