

Organic lead compounds as additions
to gasoline.

Hygienic Laboratory
McG-Man

copy

November 23, 1922.

The attached file with respect to the introduction of lead tetra ethyl as an admixture to gasoline is respectfully returned to the Surgeon General, for the attention of Assistant Surgeon General A.M. Stimson with the statement that the risk of lead poisoning from the use of lead tetra ethyl in gasoline has been carefully considered and this office is not disposed to recommend any experimental investigation of the subject at the present time for the following reasons:

1. To secure trustworthy data would require a considerable period of time, perhaps a year. This delay would probably prevent results of an experimental investigation from being of much practical use since the trial of the material under ordinary conditions should show whether there is risk to man.
2. Experimental data of either a positive or negative nature would be most difficult to interpret with respect to the hazard to human beings since we have almost no information as to the relative susceptibility to lead of man and of laboratory animals.
3. Experimental results would apply to a limited set of conditions which might or might not prevail in the use of the material in gas engines.

It seems, however, to this office that it would be eminently proper to communicate with the manufacturers, pointing out the possibility of harm and inquiring as to whether or not this feature has been given consideration.

It is believed that it would also be proper to advise health officers of the proposed use of lead tetra ethyl and suggest the advisability of careful watch being kept for manifestations of lead poisoning.

G.W. McCoy,
Director.