

March 9, 1976

Mr. Jacob Rassner
Rassner and Rassner
15 Park Row
New York, New York 10038

Dear Mr. Rassner:

I have delayed in writing to you on the subject of our correspondence November, 1975, for the reason that I expected time to yield the answer to a question which arose out of your description of a case, presumably, of tetra-ethyl-lead poisoning. Unfortunately, I am somewhat disabled by ocular difficulties and find it necessary to extend myself as little as possible, and I simply waited for your further report on your patient in the feeling that time alone would answer my question more satisfactorily than it could be answered otherwise. Tetra-ethyl-lead poisoning is an intoxication which I have investigated more thoroughly than has any other person. Not that I or anyone else knows all that is to be known about it.

I refer here to your statement that your patient had (at the time you wrote) "Myasthenia gravis" following an acute exposure to this chemical compound (in a mixture of chemicals for use in treating gasoline.) Having had to deal with the first series of cases of this type seen in industry, and with occasional cases since, I recognize the likelihood of the development of this clinical entity as a part of the picture of this acute (not necessarily lethal) intoxication.

This syndrome lasts for a fairly long time, in some instances for months, presumably until the lead compound, (which is absorbed into, among other tissues, the central nervous system) has been excreted from the body. In some instances, recovery of a complete type does not occur. Rather, the individual may remain disabled to some extent indefinitely. However, this is not usual and I sincerely hope in your case it does not. Not only for the sake of your patient, but also since my waiting will have been in vain. I am inclined to the belief that if this type of result develops, the difficulty is more in the nature of a neurosis than evidence of nervous system pathology, that is, of destructive injury to the nervous system. I say this because "myasthenia gravis", generally is regarded as an

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Mr. Jacob Rassner,

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incurable lesion, whereas, tetra-ethyl-lead poisoning in my opinion is either a promptly lethal disease, or a prolonged one, but a curable (spontaneously curable) one. That is, there is no specific treatment which can reliably be recommended, except that the patient often requires continuous medical supervision.

I would appreciate your writing to me and reporting as well as you can on the present state of this patient. If his doctor should wish to do so, I shall be happy to hear from him.

Cordially yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.

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RASSNER AND RASSNER

COUNSELLORS AT LAW
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JACOB RASSNER
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November 28, 1975

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.
University of Cincinnati Medical Center
3223 Eden Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45267

My dear Dr. Kehoe:

I acknowledge with appreciation receipt of your recent letter regarding my inquiry.

Hopefully, you may find the time to be able to let me have some further information on the subject.

Thank you very much for your indulgence in this matter.

Sincerely,

Jacob Rassner
JACOB RASSNER

JR:A

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Mr. Jacob Vankar
Teacher at, Dahanu, Maharashtra : 8
12/12/2012
Age : 45, 17/12/2012

[illegible]

I have no information of my importance in the matter of the production of tetraethyl lead. With your mention, let me say that I am not sure I have seen it. The fact is I recall also those prepared to supply it to the market by Ethyl Corporation, but I do not recognize the procedure mentioned, and I presume it is one sold by a competitor of Ethyl Corporation. I shall find out this and one or two additional bits of information shortly. I shall be able, I hope, to give you a definite answer to your question.

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.
Professor Emeritus of
Occupational Medicine
University of Cincinnati

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