

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

HARRISBURG

THE SECRETARY

September 30, 1924

Dr. Cecil K. Drinker,  
Department of Physiology,  
Harvard Medical School,  
Cambridge, Massachusetts.

My dear Dr. Drinker:

The "Industrial and Labor Information" published by the International Labour Office, in its issue of June 2, 1924 refers to a statement by Dr. Yandell Henderson concerning the dangers to chauffeurs of lead poisoning from exposure to tetra-ethyl of lead.

I have had some correspondence with Dr. Henderson on this subject and he has suggested that I write you for specific information on the action of this substance. Can you, therefore, advise me on the following points:

What are the properties of tetra-ethyl of lead?  
Of what advantage is its addition to gasoline  
for use in motor vehicles?

By what means is lead liberated from this  
mixture?

In what form is it liberated?

In what forms does it show its effects upon  
the human organism in this use?

For what other purposes is this substance used  
besides as an addition to gasoline for use  
in motor vehicles?

If you can help me by answering the above questions and by giving me any other information that you feel would be of use to the Department of Labor and Industry with reference to this material, I shall be deeply indebted to you,

Sincerely yours,

*Royal Meeker*

ROYAL MEEKER

Secretary of Labor and Industry