

BELL TELEPHONE LABORATORIES

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August 13, 1965

DR. R. A. KEHOE
Kettering Laboratory
College of Medicine
Cincinnati 19, Ohio

Dear Dr. Kehoe:

In looking over the very interesting article "Toxicology and the Biomedical Sciences" by B.B. Brodie, G.J. Cosmides and D.P. Rall, appearing in the 18 June 1965 issue of SCIENCE, I find the following statement tucked back in the reference section of the article:

27. It is known that some substances in our environment, for example, 2-naphthylamine and tetraethyl lead are converted to carcinogenic compounds. Certain substances in cigarettes and smog may be harmless by themselves, but may cause cancer through conversion in the body to carcinogens. Other drugs that induce drug-metabolizing enzymes might increase this hazard.

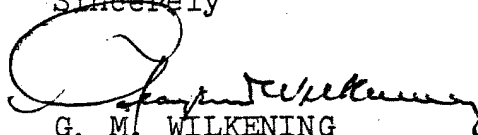
This is the first time I remember reading, as a flatly undisputed fact, that tetraethyl lead is converted to a carcinogenic compound.

If you have any thoughts on this, I would be glad to hear from you, or perhaps a better alternative would be for you to comment either to the editor of SCIENCE or to the authors themselves.

Hope you are enjoying your well earned retirement.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely



G. M. WILKENING

Head

Industrial Hygiene & Safety
Administration Department

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