

THE ASSOCIATED ETHYL COMPANY LIMITED NORTHWICH CHESHIRE

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ABBEY 337

OUR REF. K2

YOUR REF.

Date 26th July, 1949.

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Dr. E.A. Kehoe,
Kettering Laboratory of Applied Physiology,
University of Cincinnati,
College of Medicine,
Cincinnati,
OHIO,
U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Kehoe,

The Operations Department conference held in July in London was not as difficult as anticipated. Mr. Oscar Lewis, who was present, has probably discussed the problems on this side with you. I held out for no change in the regulations, but rather to carry matters further in the education of oil companies by our representatives, particularly in regard to tank cleaning. I do not think you realise just how bad conditions can be in our field, and what mal-practices occur daily. We had one most illuminating instance of the misinterpretation of data recently. An aviation gasoline tank was opened, thoroughly ventilated by natural means, and, according to the company's custom, they did an analysis of the tank atmosphere for the normal air constituents. They followed the principle that if the oxygen content was 20% or more and if the carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide were less than 1% by their method of analysis, then such a tank was safe to enter without protective equipment. Our tests done by the lead-in-air analyser at the same time gave a reading in five places of 10 mgm. per 10 cubic metres. One has deprecated the use of the lead-in-air analyser outside the Company. One feels that in our territory if its use was generally adopted, it would be abused. Moreover, in the little experience we have had of it, we feel that some further development is required on it.

When I wrote to you on the 1st June, a copy of Table 9, "Classification of Workmen by Buildings and Quantities of Lead in Urine as Mg/Litre" as prepared by the Manufacturing Departments at Palmboeuf and Northwich was enclosed. I picked this table up again this morning, and found that for some unknown reason I had overlooked the statement on U.S.A. means. I took the matter up with the Manufacturing Department here, and asked where they had obtained the figures shown on the table. I was informed that they had obtained them in the French plant. One deprecates the comparisons made. Surely the U.S.A. means shown must be very old ones, as your most recent mean was well within the normal limits of excretion in the Baton Rouge plant.

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I would be grateful if you could let me have your present figures, which I feel must be the same or better than ours. I enclose a copy of the table of the means for the six months ending the 30th June, 1949, and also a table showing the rates of excretion by individuals arranged according to length of service. We are still using the short method on the plant. I think you will agree that the figures shown in one of the accompanying charts indicate that there is a close comparison between the 24 hour and snap samples done by the long and short methods respectively. We are checking some of results now with a Hilger-Nutting spectrophotometer on the plant. I still cannot understand why we are not getting more contamination, as there is a little lead in the atmosphere. Also it does not show itself in lead in air analyses but is definitely in dust collected in the laboratory.

Our new laboratory at Lostock Green should be open in September.

Dr. Greaud, who has been appointed as full time medical officer at Ethyl Kuhlmann at Paimboeuf, and who is also, I understand, to supervise the some fifteen active blending plants in France, is to come here in September, but we have not yet been given the dates.

I enclose copies of the following literature, in which you might be interested:

"Industrial Rehabilitation Unit" from the British Medical Journal.

"Ethyl Petrol". Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories for the year 1943.

Translation. "The Toxicity of Tetraethyl Lead" by Dr. Carozzi.

I am going to Germany this weekend, to appoint two medical consultants. As you probably know, Herr Morgenthaler is now the Company's representative in Germany, and has an office in Hamburg. I will let you know what transpires on my return.

I have at last made a little progress in the South American field, and hope to visit that country early in 1950. I understood from Dr. Machle that you had some reservations regarding South America, and I would be most grateful if you would give me your instructions or comments on this territory. I understand that it is most unlikely that any manufacturing will be done in the Argentine, but the number of blending points is progressively increasing. I have heard, but cannot confirm it, that the frequency of blending and the amount of "ethyl" fluid used per gallon is in one or two places in excess of that permitted in our regulations.

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KE 0010095

to Dr. R.A. Kehoe.

DATE 26th July, 1949

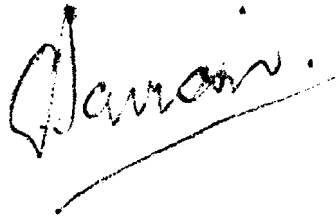
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There are two other medical officers with us now, Drs. N. Graham and M.D. Kipling.

We are reserving next August for your visit, and looking forward to seeing Mrs. Kehoe and yourself.

With kindest personal regards,

Yours very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'E. Davison', written over a horizontal line.

E. Davison.

Encls.

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