

February 10, 1936

Mr. A. E. Mittnacht
Ethyl Gasoline Corporation
Chrysler Building
New York City
New York

Dear Art:-

Following our telephone conversation on the matter of [redacted] of Vincennes, we communicated with his attorney and examined [redacted] in company with this gentleman on February 7th.

In my opinion [redacted] condition has progressed sufficiently that we are now in position to say with considerably more certainty than formerly, that he is affected with Buerger's disease or thromboangiitis obliterans which is slowly progressing. At the time of the examination there was definite evidence of disease of the arteries supplying both hands and both feet, the right hand and the left foot being the worst affected. Mr. [redacted] can get about to a certain extent although during this cold weather, which is a great hardship to these people, he is forced to spend all of his time indoors and the greater portion of it lying down. He appears to have a fairly good outlook which I believe is largely due to the bounty of the Ethyl Gasoline Corporation and such compensation as he is now receiving from the Prudential Life Insurance Company.

I am not including the details of his examination but can sum it up by saying that the arterial disease process which he has had to date resulted in total disability, and has been accompanied by the loss of a portion of the first finger of the right hand and several nails. There is no evidence from his history, course and present findings to indicate that lead or gasoline played any role in the production or aggravation of his disease.

If the Ethyl Gasoline Corporation is to make Mr. [redacted] an object of charity for which they are largely responsible, financially that is to say, then it seems quite illogical to me to continue to pay him money under the present arrangement. While the prospects of permanent cure are small, the man should be hospitalized for a period and given the benefit of recent improvements in the treatment of his condition, and he should thereafter be placed under appropriate medical care.

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Mr. A. E. Mittnacht

A great deal of the suffering and some of the disability that accompany his condition can be alleviated by proper regimen, which can only be carried out under medical supervision which he has not had for the past three years. Mr. [REDACTED] does not have the faintest idea of how to care for himself, and if he is put under hospital or medical observation for a period of time, it would accomplish that much for him, if nothing else.

The fact that his condition has progressed as slowly as it has with ulcers appearing in one digit or the other, occasionally healing later, indicates that there is some tendency toward recovery. I should recommend his being brought on to Cincinnati and placed in a hospital here for a period of study and treatment by members of our vascular disease clinic. If the Corporation feels any responsibility toward this man morally or charitably, then it would seem that the proper thing to do would be to give him the benefit of all help that they can. If, on the other hand, there is no responsibility implied, one should not pay him anything. He would be better off as a ward of the community in some county hospital than he is under the present arrangement.

I would appreciate your letting me have your reaction to the above. I am writing Mr. [REDACTED] next week to lay down principles of care for himself and to furnish him with prescriptions for the things he needs in the treatment of the symptoms of his disease.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Very truly yours,

WFM:is

Willard F. Machle, M.D.