

THE ASSOCIATED ETHYL COMPANY LIMITED

Registered Office: THE ADELPHI, LONDON, W.C. 2

Address all communications until further notice to:
LERY HOUSE, ARTILLERY ROW, LONDON, S.W.1

Telephone: ABBEY 3974-7 Telegrams: ETHYLPORT, SOWEST, LONDON

S. AUG. KESSLER (NETHERLANDS)
SELLERS
A. J. SINGLETON
E. E. SOUBRY
T. R. A. BEVAN (Managing)

OUR REF. 0/ea
YOUR REF.

30th May, 1944.

Dr. Robert A. Kehoe,
College of Medicine,
University of Cincinnati, Ohio, U.S.A.

Dear Bob,

I attach an extract from a letter received this morning from Cassells which, I think, you will find of interest. In reply I have told Cassells that in my opinion, amongst the parties he mentions, the only one likely to sponsor such an investigation is ourselves; and whilst we would be extremely glad to do so, I doubt our ability to find the staff or co-operation at the present time.

I have suggested that Cassells give this matter some further thought, and if he has any ideas, I shall be glad to talk them over with him when next we meet.

With all best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

T. R. A. Bevan.

Airmail copy
with enclosure.

so far as we know and
discussion of them would, therefore, not take us very far.

The opportunity exists in this country at the present
time to make a most useful investigation into the exposure to which certain

KE 0007308

in their cases.
cases of lead-poisoning
cases they drank the
considered all the
purpose can be served
analysis of urine or
this kind and it seems
continue to be raised from
I would say that before
there must be :

a degree of exposure to lead which cannot be
painful and

primary lead poisoning (or blood lead in certain
cases of abnormal plumbic condition) in the affected

N 7050

dated 26th May, 1944.

T. R. A. Bevan, Esq.

Dear Mr. Bevan,

You asked for my comments on the Haifa cases.

All that I can usefully say is that they may be cases of lead-poisoning although one hesitates to blame 80 octane fuel (unless they drank the stuff). I imagine that the doctors on the spot considered all the alternatives including pellagra for example and no purpose can be served by embarking now upon a differential diagnosis.

The paramount need of accurate analysis of urine or blood is emphasised by the aftermath of cases of this kind and it seems to me that the bogey of T.E.L. poisoning will continue to be raised from time to time until such analysis is carried out. I would say that before a case can be classed as one of T.E.L. poisoning there must be :

- a) a degree of exposure to T.E.L. which cannot be gainsaid and
- b) high urinary lead figures (or blood lead in certain rare cases of abnormal kidney function) in the affected personnel.

Both these criteria are absent in the Haifa cases so far as we know and discussion of them would, therefore, not take us very far.

The opportunity exists in this country at the present time to make a most useful investigation into the exposure to which certain

KE 0007309

workers with aviation and other fuels are open - canfillers, pumpmen, tank dippers, fillers of rail tanks, road tanks, barges etc. to say nothing of carburettor testers, tank-cleaners and the like. It would, of course, be a whole-time occupation for a team of investigators, and I think it is a pity that the opportunity is not seized. No one knows what the exposure of such people amounts to, and the knowledge would help considerably in the discussion of the cases which arise.

Whose function it is to sponsor such an investigation is not for me to say. The interested parties would seem to be the Petroleum Companies, the Factory Inspectorate, the Armed Forces' Medical Services as well as Associated Ethyl, and certainly the co-operation of all of these would be a primary necessity if any investigation were to be worth while. The Medical Research Council might be interested as well.

I shall be very interested to hear Kehoe's views and perhaps you will consider letting me know in due course what he has to say.

As regards more detailed comment, the Ferhall-Zanardi method of lead analysis cannot be delicate enough if it showed absence of lead in the urinary samples. I have not been able to find out what the method is. I suspect that "Ferhall" should be "Fairhall". With regard to Vitamin C, recent work by Kehoe and Machle (1943) has not confirmed the work of Holmes and the former consider that ascorbic acid (Vit. C) has no action in minimising the effects of lead absorption.

I had a letter from Kehoe announcing his safe return and he mentioned the pamphlet which you sent me. He promises me some data with

RE 0007310

