



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

HARTFORD, CONN.

September 8, 1930

Mr. Robert A. Kehoe
University of Cincinnati
Cincinnati, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Kehoe:

I should be delighted to know how in the world you heard anything about my knowledge of the cases of lead poisoning. Just to satisfy my curiosity, won't you please tell me?

The circumstances in which I have come up against what may be the case to which you refer are as follows: About a month ago my young cousin, a boy about twenty-four years old, who has an old car which doesn't function well, needed to prime it and get it started, and he tried to create a vacuum by sucking on a hose to get some gas out of his tank to prime the car with, and inadvertently swallowed considerable of the gasoline. This was ethyl gasoline. One of my servants in the house who had evidently had experience with all kinds of poisons in the war gave him considerable milk at once, and as soon as I found it out about two hours afterward, I took him to the doctor, and he was under the doctor's care for about two weeks.

The doctor was Dr. Irving L. Hamant of Norfolk, and if you say to Dr. Hamant that I am perfectly willing he should give information about this case, I think he will give full medical details. As I look at it, he was pretty sick. He had a temperature, his lungs were congested considerably, and I do not think his stomach lining is over the effects of the poison yet.

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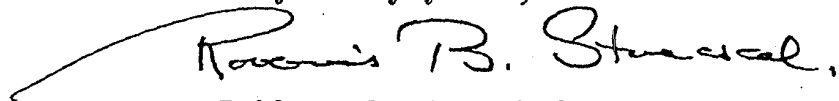
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Very much to my surprise when this case got around a little, even in my home town I found several other cases of similar happenings, and came to the conclusion that it is necessary for us in this department to get out a bulletin about the poisons which are encountered in connection with the use of motor vehicles. I am working on that now and I have asked Dr. Osborn of the State Health Department to make up for me a memorandum of all the different kinds of poisoning which might occur, and to name such antidotes as he can.

Regarding the exact symptoms of this particular case which I have had in my own family, I think you better get Dr. Hamant's description as I do not know anything very much about it except that I took care of the boy and know he was sick, and I know his sickness was occasioned by his getting a dose of ethyl gasoline.

I hope that you will cooperate with me and tell me what you can in connection with this matter as I am interested particularly in my official capacity in getting out to the public such information as is from time to time obtainable and which will help to preserve life and make for less accidents of this kind.

Very truly yours,



Robbins B. Stoeckel
Commissioner of Motor Vehicles

RBS:MC

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