

December 26, 1956

Dr. W. P. Pelz
1504 East Clark Street
Charles City, Iowa

Dear Doctor Pelz:

I am sorry not to have had time to write to you sooner. Having been hard pressed for time, my correspondence has languished.

Considering the modesty of your request for tetraethyl lead, I should be disposed to ask the proper people in the Detroit Laboratories of Ethyl Corporation to send it to you. On the other hand, since the compound is dangerous, it seems only a necessary precaution to find out from you, in general terms, what you wish to do. If there is some other better material for the same purpose, you would be wise to use it.

I feel apologetic when I question the purpose and techniques of a physician, but the fact of the matter is that there have been so many requests for tetraethyl lead that have been wholly unjustified, and such a number that have been based on an entirely false idea of the nature, properties, and usefulness of tetraethyl lead for medical purposes, that I have had to screen them.

Would you mind giving me a brief account of your proposed work? If I can give you any suggestion, I shall be glad to do so, and moreover, if I can learn something from your work, I shall be delighted.

When the sample is sent to you, you will also receive some instructions and you will be asked to sign a release. These are routine procedures which we set up years ago and will continue.

Sincerely yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

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Dictated but not read.

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