

LUMBER MUTUAL
CASUALTY INSURANCE COMPANY OF NEW YORK

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION - AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

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PLEASE ADDRESS YOUR REPLY TO
SYRACUSE OFFICE
1018 State Tower Bldg.
SYRACUSE 3-7210

August 21, 1942

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

John W. Danforth Co.,
S-9698 124538

Dear Dr. Kehoe:

I have your letter of August 5, 1942 for which I thank you very much.

The claimant in this case does not appear to have any eruption or skin irritation on his hands or arms.

The history is, that for three weeks following December 18, 1941 claimant worked at the Binghamton State Hospital. During two days he worked inside a huge steam boiler scraping rust from the unpainted interior of this new iron boiler; that for a couple of days he applied paint to the interior of this boiler. This paint had a graphite base with a thinner known as Sunoco Spirits, the latter being a refined fraction from petroleum and belongs to the class of petroleum products known as petroleum spirits. It conforms to the specifications of the American Society for testing materials for petroleum spirits designated D 235-39 and also to their specifications for Stoddard Solvent, designated as D 484-4. These Sunoco spirits do not contain added ingredients of any sort, nor is anything introduced in the refining process. It is a straight petroleum fraction. It is in itself supposed to be non-toxic and obviously does not contain any toxic metals such as lead, bismuth, mercury, etc. and furthermore it contains no benzene.

Claimant worked until the job was completed, approximately three weeks.

After terminating his employment, plaintiff had pains in his stomach pallor and a feeling of general weakness; some dizziness, loss of appetite and two or three days after quitting work was sent to the hospital where the attending physician diagnosed case as lead poisoning, due to the use of the paint claimant was using on the boiler. It was brought to the attention of the doctor that this paint did not contain any lead but the doctor stated that nevertheless the claimant clinically had lead poisoning and he gave him the Aub treatment which apparently did not have any pronounced beneficial effects.

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In May or June, five months after the date of disability, claimant exhibited some signs of mental changes, according to the doctor, but such changes were not noticed by me at the hearing at which claimant testified.

During the stay in the hospital the red cell count was around five million and the white cell count varied from 10,000 to 14,200. A smear from the gums for Vincents disclosed numerous spirochaetes and fusiform bacilli. The attending physician stated he found stipple blood cells and lead in the urine, and that on May 18, 1942 a chemist examined the blood for lead and found 385 micrograms of lead per 100 milliliters blood and that a chemical examination of the urine, 350 micrograms of lead per liter.

During the period January to June, 1942 claimant's physical examination showed what an ear doctor described as some nerve deafness.

The attending physician was unable to make any differential diagnosis.

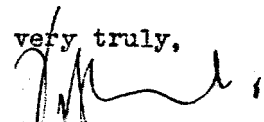
I realize that this is a very sketchy history of this case.

Do you ever get to Syracuse or vicinity. If it should be necessary to have someone examine this man and you can do this for me, what would your fee be?

It is quite probable that this claimant has some obscure condition which has not been ascertained.

I have the books which you sent me and having just returned from my vacation today, I have not had an opportunity to look over them but I want to assure you that they will be taken good care of and if I may be permitted to keep them another week, I will then return them to you.

Yours very truly,


J. R. Fitzgerald

JRF:F