

Dr. H. C. Honor
Manila

KE 0013334

February 20, 1939

Dr. H. C. Honor
Manila Hospital and Sanitorium
707 Vermont Street
Manila

Dear Doctor Honor:-

I have just received word from Mr. Alan C. Tully of Ethyl Export Corporation that he has discussed with you the question of the medical supervision of certain employees of Standard Vacuum Oil Company, who will be engaged in mixing Ethyl Fluid with gasoline in Manila. I hasten to approve Mr. Tully's recommendation that you carry on this work for I am very glad that we have this means of getting the work in such good hands.

It has been my purpose in the case of every mixing plant in this country or elsewhere, to provide for competent medical supervision not only for the purpose of detecting any evidences of lead absorption before serious consequences result, but also for the purpose of recognizing any other type of disease in the personnel and thereby making sure that intercurrent illnesses of another type might not be mistaken for lead intoxication. In this country and Canada this supervision is carried out by assistants of mine who travel in different parts of the country. Elsewhere we have been dependent on practitioners of medicine and of industrial hygiene, who might be willing to take the time to carry on this work. In general we have tried to have responsible men in each country whose position and medical competence were of such sort that no questions could arise concerning professional competence and judgment.

One of the jobs of this laboratory, over a period of years, has been to study the occupational hazards of this entire industry, and also to determine what, if any, public health problems were worthy of consideration in connection with the distribution of leaded gasoline. As a consequence of these studies, as well as of certain other studies carried on by public and governmental agencies, there is a very considerable body of information.

KE 0013385

Accordingly I am sending you under separate cover a series of reprints which discuss various phases of the problem and which give the data obtained in a number of our experimental studies. Unfortunately some of the articles are not available in reprint form. One of these is a rather comprehensive field study of ours which reviews the previous literature on the subject, and which describes a survey made on lead absorption among filling station employees and other handlers of leaded gasoline. This article can be found in the Journal of Industrial Hygiene Volume 16 - Page 100 - 1934. If you have access to this journal, I think you will find the article of interest and value to you.

Briefly to describe our experience in the field in which you will be working, it should be said that the equipment which has been devised for mixing and the regulations which have been set-up around the mixing operations, are of such quality that no cases of poisoning and no actual lead exposure is to be anticipated, providing the equipment is kept in order and the regulations are followed. After such a statement you may question why I am so interested in competent and careful medical supervision. The facts are that I have always thought of careful medical supervision as a very useful and necessary precautionary measure, and my chief fear has been that workmen would become careless after a period of apparently safe performance of their duties, and that such carelessness would eventually result in faulty methods of work and cases of poisoning. Medical supervision, in my opinion, will serve to keep the men cautious while at the same time providing to the doctor evidences in the form of lead absorption, if the men should become careless in the performance of their duties.

In order that such carelessness may not be encouraged, we have felt it necessary that the mixing plants be maintained in the best possible state of cleanliness and efficiency. Accordingly it is desirable, I believe, that the doctor should inspect the mixing plant from time to time and assure himself that the masks, clothing, and other equipment are kept in proper order.

I have given the expression of my general point of view about this whole problem in a memorandum to our medical consultants, a copy of which I am sending with the other printed material. I am also sending you a set of the Rules and Regulations for your own use. I am sending also a few articles which have no

immediate relation to the problem of these mixing plants, but which might be of some interest to you in connection with the general problem of lead poisoning.

I would appreciate it very much if you would communicate with me from time to time, and particularly if there are any questions or any difficulties which should be brought to my attention. I try to keep informed as to what is going on in this work in all parts of the world, and it is a source of considerable satisfaction, therefore, to obtain information from time to time from medical consultants.

Cordially yours,

RAK:is

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.

KE 0013387