

June 17, 1936

Mr. H. R. Bassford
Metropolitan Life Insurance Co.
New York City
New York

Dear Mr. Bassford:

Dr. Edgar has reported to me your letter of June 3rd with its request for further information.

The figures which were supplied to you in Dr. Edgar's letter of May 29th are the best figures available on the point in which you are interested. It is impossible for us to give you the exact number of men actually engaged in mixing as of any specific date. Our examination records show that the number of men indicated for the respective years were actually employed in mixing during that year. They show also that this number of men had actual exposure in the mixing operations. Most of the examinations are made during the fall and early winter. New men may be examined at this time, but such new men would not be included among the group for that year. Our figures refer rather to men who had been engaged up to the time of the examination in mixing operations during previous months. They are, therefore, approximately accurate and there is no means by which they can be dealt with more accurately since we do not maintain a file showing the exact date on which the employment of any one of these men has been discontinued. That is to say, we collect all our facts with regard to these men at the time of their physical examination. We would not have information about them at any other time unless it became necessary to make interim examinations for the replacement of men who had discontinued this work. On the other hand, the character of our information and supervision is such that if any of these men developed an illness in which lead might be suspected as a factor, we would be promptly informed in order to investigate the character of the illness.

I am sorry not to be able to give you the information which you desire, but I can see no way we can make it available to you. Moreover I can see no way in which such information could be obtained in the future without the expenditure of a great deal of time and trouble in essentially unproductive work on reports on men in the refineries. Such reports would occasion considerable in-

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convenience to refinery managements and would not gain for us as useful information as can be obtained by direct contact with the refinery management at the time of our medical examinations.

Very truly yours,

RAK:is

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.

cc Dr. Edgar

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