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PHILIP BOYD
Chief Medical Officer

OUR REF. MU/K.1.

YOUR REF.

April 5, 1956.

Dr. R.A. Kehoe,
Kettering Laboratory Of Applied Physiology,
University of Cincinnati,
College of Medicine,
Eden Avenue,
CINCINNATI 19,
Ohio,
U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Kehoe,

I was indeed delighted to find your letter waiting for me on my return from a rather exhausting trip round the Middle East, where I have been meeting all the doctors who are providing our medical services in that area. The trip has served to convince me yet more of the importance of the tetraethyl lead medical men getting around every few years to their part-time colleagues in the field. The prestige these men get locally from such visits, as well as the correction of errors and such like, is very evident, and many little problems get aired to the advantage of everyone.

Of course, travelling through all the Arab countries as well as Israel during this period has been a fascinating adventure anyhow. The whole situation is so complex that it will take a genius to work it out. In this respect, without wishing to be over-critical, I must say American political naivety in the area seems to clash completely with their military and economic aspirations. This is such a big subject, however, that I won't waste your time with it now. My impressions in summary are, however, that neither British nor the Americans at home have any conception of the problems involved or any really correct reporting of the facts as they really are.

I fully realise exactly how busy you are, and would be most embarrassed and sorry to feel that you should ever consider yourself negligent on my account. This is certainly not the case, and in many ways it is a very good thing for me to have to stand on my own feet for prolonged periods of time, although I must admit there are many

occasions when I wish you could be in the office next door.

I was astounded to read about your experience with regard to this fluoride case. I would very much like to have all of the details of this at some time, should you ever wish me to take any steps on this side of the Atlantic. As a matter of fact, though I am astounded at what you say with regard to D.H., whom I do not know personally, this tends to fit in with the pointed comments of one or two quite senior physicians in this country at one time or another. Professor Dodds, for one, has made to me some very unfavourable remarks with regard to this person, though I don't know the background of his thoughts in these matters.

It seems, too, that you have been exceptionally busy with regard to the American Board of Preventive Medicine. I realised at the time of the meeting in Buffalo that this was going to be the biggest headache ever, but it will be a grand thing to have accomplished, and truly amazing if in so doing one has kept one's friends. I wish we could provide a similar facility to the industrial medical field over here, although I think on the whole our progress has always been upward.

It was very interesting to hear your skeleton comments on the question of air pollution in Los Angeles and other places. I really would like to have some consolidated literature and background on this subject as soon as any is available.

I am not too certain of what is happening in Switzerland at the present time, though I have had the impression that there is a great deal of muddled thinking, and a none too scrupulous attitude by the medical profession in great numbers towards any such subject which appears to be ideal for their medico-political contentions. So much nonsense has been spoken and written in Switzerland by people who should know better that I am not at all clear whether there is any logical thinking on the subject at all, but I am not qualified to speak at the moment, and I may have misinterpreted the situation. If you would give me a guide as to what is happening over there, I will certainly make some efforts to check, and I will of course always hold myself available to give you any assistance which you might need.

With regard to the lead problem, I am at the present moment trying to consolidate my position on my return to London, and one of the first things is to review our present literature on lead. As soon as we have done this, I will let you know where we stand, and what further

information we would like to possess. Of particular interest is the probable increase all round of lead in gasoline, and I would be most grateful to be kept well in touch with your present information on this particular subject.

I note that you are corresponding with Dr. Bortone, and I am very grateful to you for this.

I got the impression myself that Du Pont were taking a more responsible attitude in terms of our own particular side of the tetraethyl lead business. This is something no doubt we can discuss when we next meet, and in this respect I do hope that it will not be long before you are able to pay us a visit again.

I shall be writing again shortly, as soon as various points have presented themselves again to me as I take up the reins at home, but I wanted to get this letter off to you at the earliest moment. Everyone here is very well, and I think I can truthfully say that in the last few months the spirit and enterprise of the Company have advanced quite considerably. We are nevertheless faced with what seems to be an ever-expanding programme, which we find difficult to catch up with. However, this is a challenge which is all the more fascinating for us.

Please give my kindest regards to Mrs. Kehoe, and to my friends at the Kettering Laboratory.

Yours sincerely,

Philip

PRB/jmr

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