

May 28, 1949

Dr. George Calingaert,
Ethyl Corporation,
1600 West Eight Mile Road,
Ferndale 20, Detroit, Michigan.

Dear Cal:

Thanks very much for your letter of May 18 and for its enclosed memo from G. W. Thomson and Jim Hinkamp. I shall be pleased to have the LTD report when it is available.

I am very grateful for your comments and advice. I find myself in general agreement with your point of view, not only with reference to the interpretation of the data supplied by Thompson Products, Inc., but the necessity of careful practical application of any other data. On the other hand, I accept your criticism as to the accuracy of their observations as being much more useful than any conclusions that I could arrive at alone. Incidentally you need have no suggestion of a feeling that you have not given me every possible help promptly. In fact, it was my fault that you were prompted on this, for in my pre-occupation with a number of rather pressing matters, it slipped my mind that our joint consideration of this matter was represented only by conversation at the time of my last visit to the laboratory. I feel a little embarrassed by such a lapse.

With reference to the design of experiments which will give us adequate information along the lines in question, I find myself in not a little difficulty, and I may wish to discuss this with you in detail a little later. For the present I have taken the rather practical view that our best means of appraising the overall hazards associated with the handling of leaded gasoline or of leaded Vitane, is that of studying the exposed personnel by every means at our disposal. After all, we have developed precise methods of measuring individual exposure to lead. We can recognize the occurrence of lead absorption before it reaches dangerous levels. Whatever may happen in the vicinity of an individual which leads to lead exposure will be demonstrated in terms of lead absorption. Therefore, despite the fact that I am always very curious about the mechanisms which give rise to exposure I am reasonably content to establish the facts by more or less pragmatic means. On this account we are trying to watch all of the exposed personnel with considerable care, in the feeling that observations which extend over one or more years, and which cover a variety of circumstances, ought to bring out the possibilities in a rather comprehensive manner. I feel, therefore, that we are not too likely to be led astray by theoretical considerations or by inadequately and improperly designed experiments.

Dr. George Calingaert - (2) - May 28, 1949

Again my thanks for your help and best regards,

Sincerely yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

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