

October 14, 1930

Dr. W. P. Edmunds,
Standard Oil Company of Ohio,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Dr. Edmunds:

I received information some days ago from the State Board of Health concerning the illness of one of your employees, Mr. [REDACTED]. Through the courtesy of his physician, Dr. Hildreth, at Akron, I was able to see and examine him on Saturday, October 4th. I will send you shortly a complete report of my findings, but I consider it advisable before arriving at a diagnosis, to make a careful study of his lead excretion in order to determine if there is any factor of lead exposure in his illness. He has an extensor paralysis, with a complete wrist drop of the right hand, which rather obviously has a certain resemblance to lead poisoning. There are certain things in his condition however, which suggest that it may not be lead poisoning, and on account of these facts, plus the fact that we have no evidence which would lead us to believe that he has had a significant exposure, I have not been able to arrive at a diagnosis of lead poisoning. I am suspicious that we are dealing here with a case of mild and sharply limited poliomyelitis. I have wished to get this patient under observation in our hospital here, and in due time I think I will be able to make arrangements to that effect. I had anticipated doing this at once, but something has occurred to make it impossible, according to his physician Dr. Hildreth. I am expecting daily to hear from Dr. Hildreth concerning his patient, and to know what is his present condition, and what is the situation which makes it impossible for him to come to Cincinnati at the present time.

It is unfortunate that we did not have an opportunity to see this patient sooner. His condition began on September 2d, and I am quite certain that if we had seen him at once we would have been able to have arrived at a certain diagnosis before this. I have no way of telling just when this case came to your attention, but may I suggest that if and when cases of a similar sort come to your notice that you will notify me at once in order that we may see the patient in the earliest stages of his condition.

Needless to say at the present moment I do not feel that I can obstruct in any way the presentation of this case to the Ohio Industrial Board for compensation. I trust that we shall be able to obtain such information as satisfies ourselves at least, as to whether or not this is a case of lead poisoning.

Very truly yours,

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