

August 19, 1935

Dr. John Downing
520 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, Mass.

Dear Dr. Downing:

We have been informed that you have a case of suspected lead poisoning in your patient Mr. [REDACTED] of Framingham, Massachusetts, and are interested in obtaining samples of Ethyl Fluid. Dr. Kehoe who is director of this laboratory and medical consultant for the Ethyl Gasoline Corporation, is very much interested in getting all the information available on cases of this type. As you know, there have not yet been found any cases of lead poisoning as a consequence of the absorption of lead from Ethyl Gasoline even in circumstances where workmen have had daily skin and vapor contact with leaded gasoline. Cases of dermatitis have appeared from time to time due to sensitization to gasoline and gasoline products. These we have felt have been due in large part to the cracking of gasoline which gives rise to a number of unsaturated hydrocarbons, many of which are extremely reactive as compared to straight run or natural gasoline. Patch tests, in our experience, have always been negative when components of Ethyl Fluid are used in dilutions equivalent to the concentrations at which they normally occur in gasoline, even when these tests are carried out on patients markedly sensitive to gasoline.

We would appreciate your giving us any information that you may have on this case.

Very truly yours,

WFM:is

Willard F. Machle, M.D.

Copy to Dr. Edgar