

THE RADCLIFFE INFIRMARY, OXFORD
ACCIDENT SERVICE

Telephone : OXFORD 49891—Extension 280

9th October, 1967.

GAH/BWE.

Dr. R. A. Kehoe, M.D.,
The Kettering Laboratory,
College of Medicine,
University of Cincinnati,
Eden Avenue,
Cincinnati, 19,
OHIO,
U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Kehoe,

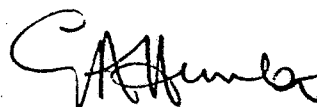
You have written and worked extensively on the effect of lead alkylate and there possible toxicity. Although not directly involved with the toxic effects of petrol itself, I would be grateful for your views about the following matter.

I am at the moment looking in to the effects of motor fuel on the skin. We have had four patients recently admitted to the above hospital with chemical burns (not ignition burns) of the skin due to contact with the petrol.

Aidin in 1958, (Reference British Medical Journal 2369,) states that there is some evidence that the skin lesion in petrol burns may have been caused by Tetra-Ethyl Lead in the petrol. Your own work published in 1925 suggested that if Tetra-Ethyl Lead concentrate was left in contact to the skin for $\frac{1}{2}$ hour desquamation occurred after a day or two leaving a white and glistening patches. This effect has not been noted elsewhere, and a mass of evidence appears to suggest that the risk of such desquamation after contact with leaded petrol is minimal because of the dilution factor 1 to 1300. I wondered if you have come in contact with any other skin burns from petrol and if you have had any view on the exact etiology by which the chemical burn is produced.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

Yours sincerely,



G. A. Hunter, F.R.C.S.
First Assistant.