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Copy to Mr. Lewis

October 20, 1937

Mr. J. Brooks Greenwood
Atlantic Refining Company
First National Bank Building
Charlotte, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Greenwood:

Your letter of September 21st addressed to the office of the Ethyl Gasoline Corporation at Baltimore, was referred to me through Mr. Shank. We have been following cases of all sorts in which complaints have been made because of contact with leaded gasoline, and I should be grateful to you if you would forward to me any information which is available on your Mr. [REDACTED] at Greenville.

For your information I should point out, perhaps, that "blood poisoning" from an injury to the skin has no necessary or probable relationship to contact with gasoline of any kind, and certainly has no relationship to the lead content of gasoline. Obviously gasoline is not a good material to introduce into a sore for it burns and also does damage to the tissue locally. Any such damage may be an exciting factor in an infection and in a case on the foot which comes in contact with soiled clothing, as well as dust and dirt from a variety of sources, an infection may result from any type of injury. In this instance the gasoline is not the cause of the infection, but is merely a contributory and irritating factor, the infection being bacteriological in origin. It is also true, of course, that gasoline may burn the skin especially when it is kept in contact with the skin by means of a cloth or article of wearing apparel which is saturated. Under these circumstances, blisters or injury produced by the gasoline may become infected. Obviously the gasoline here is a contributory factor to the infection since it produces the primary injury. So far as lead absorption is concerned, there need be no fear of this since lead is absorbed better by the intact skin than by an injured skin.

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Mr. J. Brooks Greenwood

I repeat I should be glad to have any further information about Mr. [REDACTED] and if he is still ill and if there is any question about the nature of his illness, I should be glad to communicate with his physician if he is known to you.

Very truly yours,

RAK:is

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.

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