

February 5, 1942.

Dr. Caleb H. Smith,
Odd Fellows Building,
Bradford, Pennsylvania.

Dear Dr. Smith:

Generally speaking, I should say that there is no particular point in analyzing the urine and blood of the patient mentioned in your letter of January 30. In our experience the handling of leaded gasoline involves no measurable exposure to leaded compounds, and it is not to be supposed that there would be any blood changes or that there would be any evidence of lead absorption of any kind. We have never seen a case of lead poisoning among persons who merely handle leaded gasoline in the normal fashion. Indeed, we have never seen cases of lead poisoning in connection with leaded gasoline, except in relation to the cleaning of storage tanks in which the sludge in the bottom of the tank, and not the gasoline is the factor which is responsible for the lead exposure. Accordingly, unless there is some undue worry of lead absorption on the part of your patient, or unless there is some possibility of medico-legal action, I would not consider it useful to carry out these analyses. Despite this statement, however, if you wish to have these observations carried out on your patient, I should be glad to send you the necessary containers together with instructions for the collection of samples, and we should be glad to analyze them and report the results to you promptly. I leave entirely to you the question of whether it is desirable to make the analyses in this case. Incidentally, I should be pleased if you would let me know the history and the nature of the complaints of this patient, since we have been attempting to obtain rather complete records on complaints that occur in relation to leaded gasoline.

Cordially yours,

Robert A. Ashoe, M. D.

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