

October 18, 1935

Dr. Allen E. Park
32 The Terrace
Wellington
New Zealand

Dear Dr. Park:

My attention was called by Mr. Tegner of the Ethyl Export Corporation to the fact that you have probably never been supplied with the available information on the subject of lead exposure in association with mixing operations. Accordingly I am sending you under separate cover a number of articles which may be of some interest to you. From time to time I have corresponded with Dr. Fairley and I think he is rather well informed of the investigative work which we have carried out in this field. Doubtless Dr. Fairly has given you all the information at his disposal. However, it seems wise to call your attention to the fact that the dangers of this occupation are not great so long as the equipment is kept in proper condition, and the regulations are followed with care and precision. We have had several thousand men under our care in this country for years without having had a single case of lead poisoning. This, I am sure, is because actual lead absorption has been reduced practically to the vanishing point in men engaged in this work. I am sure that this will be the case everywhere if the work is done properly.

You will note that the initial symptoms of significant exposure to tetraethyl lead differ quite appreciably from the customary clinical picture of lead absorption. On the other hand, there is every reason to believe that prolonged slight exposure would result in the usual clinical manifestations of chronic lead poisoning. Accordingly we make it a practice to examine every man carefully with reference to suggestive acute symptoms, as well as the blood and other clinical evidences of chronic lead absorption. Our studies on the lead excretion of men in this work have demonstrated that there occupational lead absorption is insignificant if the conditions of their work are as they should be. As a consequence of these facts, I put the greatest dependence for safety in the provisions for the use of proper equipment and in the regulations for mixing. I confidently expect our medical staff to keep on the alert to see that the work is done properly. In

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my opinion the medical examinations must be regarded largely as a means of determining whether or not the precautions are adequately carried out.

If any questions or difficulties arise, I trust that you will feel free to communicate with me and I assure you that I shall be glad to give you every possible assistance.

Cordially yours,

RAK:is

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.