

April 8, 1942.

Mr. M. A. Taylor,  
Ethyl Gasoline Corporation,  
Park Square Building,  
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Taylor:

Thanks very much for your letter of March 28, with its information about the work of the State Department of Health in Connecticut, in relation to drinking water.

For your own information, and not for publication, we are making a study of this problem on behalf of the army. We are interested, therefore, in having any information which may develop from any source in this connection. I should be particularly anxious to know some of the technical details of this work, and more particularly, the methods of analysis employed in determining the lead content of the water taken from these various containers. It appears to us that the results are a little low on the basis of some of our own experience, but we should like to use these data in addition to our own, if we can establish that they are reliable. I should appreciate it if you could get additional information for me.

Let me say that you are entirely correct in your position with reference to the use of these tanks for drinking water. We recognize that emergencies can develop, and under such conditions, water for drinking and cooking will be transported in whatever equipment is available. The army has issued definite and stringent orders against the use of gasoline containers in this manner. However, they recognized that under the conditions of combat, emergencies may occur which will involve the use of gasoline containers for carrying drinking water. The practice should be discouraged, and I think you can see from the figures obtained in this investigation that every effort should be made to see that water is not transported or stored in equipment of this type. Incidentally, the figure of 0.1 mg. per liter (which is the same as 0.1 part per million), is generally regarded as the maximum permissible lead concentration in water used for drinking and cooking. Undoubtedly, water with somewhat higher lead content could be used for a short period, but the practice is certainly not to be encouraged.

Again my thanks for your interest and for anything further which you can obtain.

Mr. M. A. Taylor - (2) - April 8, 1942.

With kindest personal regards,

Cordially yours,

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Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

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