

February 7, 1941

Dr. Rafael Schiaffino
Jefe de la Division de Hygiene
Ministerio de Salud Publica
18 de Julio 1892
Montevideo, Uruguay
South America

Dear Doctor Schiaffino:

In compliance with my promise to you when I last talked with you, and also in accordance with your letter of November 23rd, I am sending you under separate cover a series of reprints of articles written by members of the staff of this laboratory on various phases of the problems of industrial hygiene. I am by no means certain that these will provide all of the information which you may desire, but I am sure they will give you some items of information which will be useful, and I hope interesting. I gather from your letter that you are interested chiefly in the occupational hazards arising from the petroleum industry. The articles which I am sending you do not cover this question completely, and at the present time I know of no series of publications which do deal with this industry adequately. Generally speaking I think it is fair to say that aside from the dangers of fire, explosion and acute intoxication, from the inhalation of gasoline and sulphur dioxide, there are few significant hazards in the petroleum industry. That is, there are no insidious hazards of very great consequence. The dangers are fairly obvious, and they have to be dealt with by careful precautionary measures.

During the course of the next few months, we shall probably be collecting some further information along this line, and will probably prepare a paper which will be a general discussion of the hazard of the petroleum industry. I can not promise that this will be completed at once or even soon, but when it is done, I shall be glad to send the article that is produced.

When I last talked with you, I found that you did not have a copy of one of the articles in Spanish on the study of the hazards associated with the distribution of leaded gasoline. I am sending you a copy of this article, and I am also sending you a descrip-

tion of the methods for staining blood films which we use for the detection of basophilic granulation of the erythrocytes.

On the suggestion of Mr. Roberts of the Associated Ethyl Company Ltd., I arranged for a subscription for you to the Journal of Industrial Hygiene and Toxicology. This is, I believe, the best journal in this country in this field. I wish to present this to you as a gift of the Associated Ethyl Company Ltd., in appreciation of your courtesy and services. I trust it will be useful to you and that you will find the articles in it of considerable interest.

I am also sending you a number of articles from the laboratory which give the methods we are using for the determination of lead in biological materials.

I want to take this occasion to thank you for your courtesy to me at the time of my visit in Montevideo, and to express my appreciation of the pleasure of actually knowing and talking with you and your associates. My stay in Montevideo and, indeed, in all of South America, was all too brief, and I shall look forward with great anticipation to a return trip. I hope also that some good fortune will bring you to Cincinnati in the near future.

With kindest personal regards,

I am

Cordially yours,

RAK:is

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.