

August 7, 1937

Dr. O. M. Weaver
Duval County Hospital
Jacksonville
Florida

Dear Doctor Weaver:

I have just heard by a somewhat circuitous route that you have seen a case which you believe to be lead poisoning in a man who is said to have washed a truck (presumably with leaded gasoline). The patient's name was [REDACTED]

Over a period of some years, my associates and I have been studying the problem of lead absorption in relation to leaded gasoline, and we have investigated directly or indirectly all cases of alleged lead poisoning that have been reported to us through various channels. I might say, parenthetically, that we have been unable to find any cases of poisoning or any evidence which would lead us to believe that lead poisoning is possible as a consequence of contact, even over long periods of time, with gasoline containing tetraethyl lead. However we are still on the lookout for such cases, and I should appreciate it very deeply, therefore, if you would report to me in the self-addressed stamped envelope, your findings in this case, together with all of the pertinent facts as to exposure and the patient's occupation. Moreover, if there is anything which we can do by way of investigation or laboratory determinations which would tend to substantiate or clarify the diagnosis in this case, I should be pleased to do so.

Perhaps I should explain, for your information, that although I am the chief medical consultant of the Ethyl Gasoline Corporation, my chief interest in these cases springs from the fact that I am doing experimental work in the general field of lead poisoning and lead absorption, and this is one of the problems in which we have been greatly interested over a period of many years. I shall thus be grateful to you for any information which you find it possible to give me.

Very truly yours,

RAK:is

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.