

THE ASSOCIATED ETHYL COMPANY LIMITED

Registered Office: THE ADELPHI, LONDON, W.C.2

Address all communications until further notice to:

ARTILLERY HOUSE, ARTILLERY ROW, LONDON, S.W.1

Telephone: ABBEY 3974-7

Telegrams: ETHYLPORT, SOWEST, LONDON

Directors:

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OUR REF. K.2. ED/JE.

YOUR REF.

28th November, 1946.

Professor R.A. Kehoe, M.D.,
Kettering Laboratory of Applied Physiology,
University of Cincinnati,
College of Medicine,
OHIO,
U.S.A.

Dear Professor Kehoe,

A copy of your letter of the 31st October to Mr. F.M.S. Tegner has been forwarded to me, and I am very glad to initiate correspondence with you. Tegner told me that I had better not write to you until a reply to his letter had been received. A few months ago I had pages of queries, but now, fortunately, there are very few outstanding. My delay in corresponding with you has therefore saved you a lot of unnecessary work.

I think I have got most of the important literature on lead. There is a very considerable dearth at this end on medical aspects of various organic compounds of bromine. I should be grateful for any information you could give me on these.

In the final paragraph of your letter to Tegner, you say that it is very easy to take for granted the familiarity of other people with a rather large number of matters which have come to be expected among yourselves, without discussion. As a newcomer, I can safely say that the average Doctor on this side knows nothing whatsoever about tetraethyl lead. A few short paragraphs only are devoted to the subject in most medical textbooks. This information is so generalised as to be of no value in practise. The literature on the subject is very difficult to come by. Therefore, newly engaged medical consultants are unlikely to have any knowledge of the subject other than that forwarded to them by you. Again, unless a clear picture is given to them, they are liable to be confused by cursory reading as many authorities have different opinions on tetraethyl lead poisoning. From your comments on Henderson & Haggard's "Notes on Tetraethyl Lead" I realise that you are only too well aware of this.

I note that you agree that it is preferable that routine matters in relation to the employment and the necessary instruction of physicians in association with the English Organisation should be carried out here. If you wish me to do this I would like you to instruct me as to the information you feel should be sent to our

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Professor R.A. Kehoe, M.D.,
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newly appointed medical consultants of the Company. I have no reserve of literature here, but could get any of the works you advise reprinted. If you wish, I can undertake the scrutinising of all initial and routine examination forms, forwarding those which are problematical to you, which will at least save you a little time. All consultants would, of course, be given your address and informed that they could write to you for any specific information they required. So far as I know, however, a considerable proportion of some hundred medical consultants who will be employed by the English Organisation, will be non-English speaking. If it would be any saving of your time, perhaps queries from such could be forwarded here first, translated, and then should I be unable to answer them could be forwarded to you. I feel I could answer most straightforward queries on the subject if you wish me to do so. However, I will await your instructions on these matters.

I hope that it will be possible for me to visit you about the middle of 1947 and obtain a better understanding of your policy with regard to these matters. I have one copy of your "General Advice to Medical Consultants of Ethyl Export Corporation". There is a note on it in Cassell's handwriting stating "About to be re-written by Dr. Kehoe, 29.5.46." Perhaps you could let me have some copies of this when published. The existing General Advice is in some parts irrelevant to the duties of the medical consultants employed by the English Organisation. Their duties, as I understand them, will be to undertake the medical supervision of blenders, blending plants and laboratories. They will be, for the most part, local doctors engaged part-time for a small sum, about £20 per annum. I feel that very few of them will have much time for intensive study of the medical aspects of tetraethyl lead, and feel that they will require spoon-feeding if they are to obtain the requisite standard of knowledge. I am given to understand that it is not the policy of the English Organisation that such medical consultants should be prepared to advise the commercial and technical

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Professor R.A. Kehoe, M.D.,
Kettering Laboratory of Applied Physiology,
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representatives of the Company in all medical and hygienic aspects of the business, or to undertake any deep critical supervision of the distribution and transportation of fluid, etc. Perhaps I am wrong in this, but I feel that the standard laid down for medical consultants, as in your General Advice, is higher than we are likely to obtain outside the U.S.A. and U.K. I would very much appreciate your direction in this.

Yours sincerely,



E. Davison.

From:

Dr. E. Davison,
British Ethyl Corporation,
NORTHWICH,
Cheshire,
England.

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