

July 10, 1943

(19)

Mr. J. R. Fitzgerald,
Lumber Mutual Casualty Insurance Co. of New York,
1018 State Tower Building,
Syracuse, New York.

Dear Mr. Fitzgerald:

Thanks for your letter of June 18, and for calling my attention to the literature in your possession which is to be returned to us. I think since it has gone this long, you may just as well keep it until your case has been disposed of. If we have occasion to call for it in the mean time, you will hear from us. Actually, we had a record of your possession of this, and but for the pressure of other work, we should probably have reminded you of it some time ago.

With reference to the final question in your letter, I think it is fair to say that there is no one in New York State who is in position to testify as an expert concerning the toxic properties of gasoline containing a minute quantity of tetraethyl lead. I know of no one outside of government circles and this Laboratory who has had any experience, either clinical or experimental with this problem. Obviously, you could get the handlers of gasoline to testify that they have no knowledge of any such thing as any special toxicity imparted to gasoline through the addition of this small quantity of tetraethyl lead. Perhaps you do not realize it, but there has never been a case of poisoning from this cause, and therefore no doctor has ever seen such a case or has had any experience therewith. As a consequence, no one is in position to be regarded as an expert on this subject, except those who have actually done experimental work on its toxicologic properties. That is to say, from the general medical point of view this is a wholly academic problem.

Cordially yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

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