



Dr. Plantey

N17448

HE 0013481

Dr. R. Plantey
117 bis Rue Michelet
Alger.

Dear Doctor Plantey:-

I have received through the London office of Ethyl Export transmitting information concerning a workman of the Compagnie Algerienne des Peintures who appeared to have been intoxicated in some way through lead absorption.

I might say at this time that I am somewhat skeptical of the diagnosis in this case, and although the symptoms recorded in your letter of November 17th are suggestive, I am somewhat doubtful of the diagnosis. Moreover the lead reported as found in this man's urine is well within normal limits as given by methods of analysis which we employ. In any case I am quite sure that a man absorbed lead sufficient to produce the symptoms described, then he must have handled tetra-ethyl lead by methods which are not in accord with the regulations. If the regulations are followed, there is no exposure whatever. Accordingly the principal importance in relation to this case has to do with the care with which the work is being carried on. The plant is inadequate and if the work is being carried on carelessly, it should be checked into and the methods should be corrected. If this is done, a man who was reported as ill is now entirely well and is willing to work in accordance with the regulations. There is no reason, in my opinion, why he should not be returned to this work. On the other hand, if he is careless and if he is responsible for the use of unsatisfactory methods of mixing, then he should not be permitted to carry on the work.

I would appreciate if you would look carefully into the manner in which the plant is operated so as to determine whether the work is being done properly. If it is not, I would advise me as to the details of the difficulties. I also like to have you report to me what you make of this case and whether or not you think it is safe for him to return to his former work.

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Cordiall

RAK:is

Robert A

cc Mr. Possett

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