

March 27, 1924. RMH/EJD

Memorandum for Asst. Surg. Gen. A. M. Stimson.

The Bureau of Mines began the study of the effects of tetra-ethyl lead some months ago (November 6, 1923). This study is being made to determine the extent of the health hazard, if any, due to the use of this chemical in automobile and other internal combustion engines. Guinea pigs, rabbits, dogs, pigeons, and monkeys are exposed to exhaust gas from a gasoline engine in two groups, one exposure lasting 3 hours and another 6 hours. These exposures are made daily with the exception of Sunday and will be carried out over a period of months.

No conclusions can be drawn at the present time, but we have found no pathological effects on animals examined up to the present. This, of course, is not conclusive.

I would suggest that, until definite information is obtained, no publicity be given to the study and no results be given out.

I am inclosing copy of the report of the last conference held on this subject at Pittsburgh.

The above is in confirmation of my talk with you over the phone on this date.

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Chief Surgeon, U.S.B. of M.

Inclosure No. 2359.