

March 7, 1940

Dr. E. Hurtado
Colombian Petroleum Company
Cucuta, Box 100
Colombia, South America

Dear Doctor Hurtado:

I was very sorry to have missed you on the occasion of your recent visit to Cincinnati, for I should have been pleased to talk with you about various phases of our work. I am sure you obtained all of the practically useful information from Dr. Sanders however, so that I trust your trip to Cincinnati served your purpose.

I believe you received most of the reprints of our work which were available. On the other hand there was a series of articles which had been translated into Spanish, which, I believe, will be useful to you in that language. Accordingly I have sent you, under separate cover, copies of these translations. If you should find that you require additional copies of these translations, please do not hesitate to let me know for I had these articles translated primarily for the use of medical men who are concerned with this problem.

I should appreciate it if you would drop me a note from time to time, letting me know of your progress and especially of any difficulties which may occur. Our experience in other countries in connection with the occurrence of difficulties may well be of some value to you if such trouble should arise. In any case I try to keep in touch with what occurs in various parts of the world in this connection.

It is possible that your attention was not called with emphasis to the rather serious hazards which may be associated with the cleaning out of storage tanks which have been used over a considerable period of time for the blending and storage of leaded gasoline. We have had a series of accidents in this country which have been the result of failure to carry out the regulations which we have prescribed in connection with this work. It seems that from time to time a group of workmen will insist upon entering these tanks for the purpose of cleaning without being supplied with the necessary protective clothing, and especially with an airline hose mask. Under certain unusual circumstances,

it may happen that concentrated Ethyl Fluid introduced into the gasoline in too rapid a stream, may sink to the bottom of such tanks and lie there over a period of months or years in the sludge. This happens, of course, only if there is a water bottom in the tank. Subsequently when men enter such a tank to clean it, they may have serious contact with concentrated Ethyl Fluid, and they may also be exposed to relatively concentrated vapors of tetraethyl lead. All of these things can be avoided by proper attention to the regulations which we have devised and which are given in detail in the booklet of regulations which you have. I call your attention to this point as being the one thing which is most likely to result in serious difficulties, in order that you may warn your people against this danger and urge upon them the necessity of proper precautionary measures.

Cordially yours,

RAK:is

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.