



Dr. G.J.Smyth
East London
South Africa

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Dr. G. J. Smyth
Adla House
58 Terminus Street
East London
South Africa

Dear Doctor Smyth:

I have received notification from London, informing me of your appointment as medical consultant of the Associated Medical Services Ltd. in East London, an appointment which I fully approve.

I shall attach separately a series of articles which are in connection with your work, and I should be very much obliged if you would communicate with me on this letter, and also on receipt of the same. I shall know whether or not either, or both, have reached you.

Even under the most disturbed conditions, I try to maintain competent medical representatives, and to keep the work as is going on. Accordingly I should be very glad to hear from you if you would write to me, telling me the character of the work as may seem useful, and any questions which may occur to you in connection with this work.

Briefly let me say that the mixing plant has been properly built and operated, and if the workmen conduct the work in accordance with the regulations, no difficulties should be experienced. Generally speaking, the medical work as an additional safeguard against the development of carelessness, which otherwise would be inevitable. However, there is a connection with the handling of leaded gas, as mentioned specifically. I refer here to the tanks which have been used for the storage of gas. On the last page of the book of regulations, there are specific instructions in connection with the use of these tanks. In countries there might be a tendency to regard these regulations as unduly rigid. I can assure you

none of us like to see. We have studied with a great deal of care, and perhaps put out briefly what seems to occur. Un- of storage of leaded gasoline in tanks slight decomposition of tetraethyl lead of organic lead compounds in the sludge in the tank, which seem to be capable of quantities of tetraethyl lead. The particles in the sludge are very small, and in a number of these tanks, they rarely exceed one-tenth of a per cent of the material at the bottom of the tank. Usually the concentration is considerably under one-tenth of a per cent. On the other hand these materials are volatile. When the sludge is handled without due precaution against inhalation and skin contact, men may develop tetraethyl lead poisoning. It is necessary to take every precaution against skin contact and inhalation, be taken. The regulations now in effect for this purpose have demonstrated that if they are followed, the danger is not appreciable.

Please accept in advance for the courtesy of an occasion for an acknowledgment of this letter the booklets which I am sending you.

RAK:is

cc. Mr. Frost