

July 16, 1930

Mr. E. W. Webb,
Ethyl Gasoline Corp.,
135 E. 42nd Street,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Webb:

I am expecting to leave Cincinnati at the end of this week for a vacation period which I expect to spend in Colorado. Miss Johnson will be out of the office part of the time while I am away, so that it is perhaps just as well for you to know where to reach me in case you should need to do so. My address will be c/o Mrs. Kate Lindwig, Aspen, Colorado. I would appreciate it if you would also give this information to Mr. Mittnacht in case he should wish to reach me.

My purpose in writing, however, was not to give you this information, but to acquaint you with some of the information which we have obtained on quinoline, which we discussed at the Pittsburg conference. It will be a matter of some interest to you, and you may need this information before I return. We obtained a pure brand of quinoline from the Eastman Company, and thus far have used it only in skin absorption experiments on the abdominal walls of rabbits.

We have found quinoline to be by far the most toxic of the substances which have been considered for the purpose of carbon remover mixtures. The application of 2 c.c. on the skin of rabbits is always fatal. One c.c. is occasionally fatal. Its immediate application, therefore, is more dangerous than that of tetraethyl lead. In order to determine whether or not rabbits were particularly susceptible to this substance, guinea pigs were used and it was found that 1 c.c. applied to their skin is always fatal.

It is my opinion from this only, that there is no point in considering the use of quinoline for this purpose. Its behavior is somewhat different from that of the aniline compounds, but it is definitely a much more toxic material.

I will be glad to give you further details of our study on this later, but I feel that you will be interested in having this preliminary information at the earliest possible time.

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In the matter of the paper about which you spoke in your recent letter, I was not at all troubled about your keeping it for this period of time. I only feared that since our party at the hotel broke up somewhat precipitantly the paper might have been mislaid, and that you were not in possession of it. This would have been rather tragic for me since I do not have a copy of it. Keep it as long as you like. I should appreciate also any comments or criticisms which you have to make. I must say, however, that I feel the importance of getting this information into scientific literature. It is of the utmost consequence that real data be available for scientific men as to the extent of absorption of tetraethyl lead and as to the extent, in consequence, of the hazard arising from the handling of compounds containing tetraethyl lead. The industrial compensation case in Boston is a good example of what I mean, since it would have been of the utmost advantage to me to have had available an article, even of my own, indicating the exact magnitude of the hazards which we were discussing in that case.

With kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

RAK:EJ

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