

August 5, 1937

Mr. H. R. Wolf
Chemical Research Department
Research Laboratories Division
485 West Milwaukee Avenue
Detroit, Michigan

Dear Mr. Wolf:

So far as I know, the question raised in your letter of July 30th concerning the skin absorption of such organic lead compounds as naphthanate or oleate, has not been solved by experimental observations. It seems improbable to me that any significant amount of absorption would occur as a consequence of skin contact with lubricants containing such compounds. Therefore I doubt the existence of any significant health hazards from the normal handling of such lubricants. It is quite possible that some absorption does occur, though I should expect it to be of therapeutic importance only. On the other hand, in as much as there are no data with which I am familiar, which would settle the matter certainly, this statement must be regarded as an opinion based on hypothetical reasoning rather than any precise knowledge of the facts. If the problem is one of considerable importance, I should think that some experimental observations in search of the facts might well be justified.

Very truly yours,

RAK:is

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.

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