

June 20, 1933

Mr. I. S. Payton
Standard Oil Company
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Mr. Payton:

Thanks for your letter of June 14th and its enclosures giving information as to the case of your employee, Mr. [REDACTED]

Under the circumstances it does not seem to me to be wise for us to enter into this matter at present. However, I should appreciate it greatly if you would keep us fully advised of any further developments. Moreover, if it is possible, and if any further questions arise as to the analytical findings, I should consider it well for you to determine in some manner what disposition has been made of the tissues and particularly of the brain of Mr. [REDACTED]. It is most unlikely from the clinical history that any evidences of lead absorption will be found on analysis. The diagnosis seems to me to be clearly that of an infectious or toxic encephalitis in which it would not be supposed that lead had played any part. I am sure you are aware that we have established beyond any reasonable doubt that significant quantities of lead are not absorbed as a result of the handling of Ethyl Gasoline. However, in such a case it would probably be necessary in a legal sense to rule out lead poisoning by means of an analysis of the brain. Thus I believe you should inform yourselves as to what has happened to these tissues in order that you may subsequently look into the necessity for further analyses. Needless to say, we should be glad to carry out any further analyses that may be required. Meantime, it would be advisable to look into the question of what other lead exposure has occurred in the case of Mr. Wagner, and to determine also whether he has had any unusual exposure in the handling of Ethyl Gasoline, in the repair of pumps, in cleaning tank cars, or in any other fashion.

I shall be out of the city for the next several weeks but any matters which arise in this connection will be cared for adequately by my associate Dr. Machle.

Very truly yours,