

MEMORANDUM

ON THE CASE OF [REDACTED]

There is a complete record of examinations and medical testimony of a suit brought by Mr. [REDACTED] against the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey heard in the Federal Court in Wilson, North Carolina in October 1936. Copy of this record is not available, however, at this time, but can be obtained if required.

Briefly outlined, the plaintiff in this suit had developed a central nervous system disturbance, which bore some resemblance to multiple sclerosis, with serious disability. This had occurred while engaged as a filling station operator and was attributed to the effects of lead absorption from occupational exposure to leaded gasoline. No evidence of lead absorption had ever been obtained by the doctors who attended the patient, the diagnosis of plumbism having been arrived at from the occupational history, and by a process of exclusion. The only medical evidence which carried any weight at all was the opinion of Dr. Spear of Baltimore that the clinical condition of the patient in and of itself justified the diagnosis of lead intoxication. This opinion was based purely on the neurological findings and the history of exposure to leaded gasoline.

The case was declared a non-suit by the Court on the basis that insufficient evidence had been presented to justify the plaintiff's claim of negligence on the part of the defendant.

In my opinion there was no proper basis for the diagnosis of lead poisoning at any time.

ROBERT A. KEHOE, M.D.

This memorandum sent to Dr. Sayers 4-1939

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