

C O P Y

December 20, 1922.

Mr. P. S. DuPont, Chairman,
Board, E. I. DuPont de Nemours and Company,
Wilmington, Delaware.

Dear Sir:

A representative of this Service who was detailed to attend a recent meeting of the American Chemical Society in New York, has reported to the Bureau upon the proposed use of lead tetra ethyl in connection with fuels for gasoline engines, which subject was discussed at the meeting, and it appeared that the DuPont de Nemours Company was interested in the development and commercial introduction of this substance.

Inasmuch as it is understood that when employed in gasoline engines, this substance will add a finely divided and non-diffusible form of lead to the exhaust gases, and furthermore, since lead poisoning in human beings is of the cumulative type resulting frequently from the daily intake of minute quantities, it seems pertinent to inquire whether there might not be a decided health hazard associated with the extensive use of lead tetra ethyl in engines.

Believing that this phase of the question must have received attention from those interested in the project, I am writing to inquire whether your company has collected any experimental or other data bearing upon the danger of lead poisoning from this source.

Very truly yours,

(SIGNED) H. S. CUMMING,
Surgeon General.

KJDB