

Columbia University
College of Physicians and Surgeons
437 WEST 59TH STREET, NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

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Dr. R. R. Sayer,
Bureau of Mines
Washington, D.C.
Dear Dr. Sayer;

I had intended answering your letter telling of your conversation with the Surgeon- General but as you have probably noticed things broke loose in our direction. This has kept me busy all of the time and I was afraid to open my mouth for fear of being misquoted. How the World got any information is still a mystery to me tho I have tried to find out where any leak came in. I know that they have had no information from me except some questions that were asked me concerning lead poisoning in general.

I have my report about finished but am not going to deliver it to any one until I come to Washington. Of course I will deliver one to the Company just before that time. Acting on the suggestion of Dr. Thompson and several others my report will contain only a summary of my experiments and will not contain the details. I think this is wise in such a meeting for I imagine that we will not get very far as the opposing factions are too far apart. I was surprised to see a report on your work in the Newark Evening News last night and it sounded or rather had all of the ear-marks of certain members of the Company.

Dr Edgar was in town several weeks ago and seems quite in a fighting spirit. I understand that he says my tetra ethyl lead was not pure and that is the reason my results are different from theirs. Again he is harping on the evaporation tests. I can easily understand his point in this matter. I buy my gasoline from a garage up the street and add my own ~~xxxxxxx~~ lead. As to evaporation of gasoline I am up in the air. I have had gasoline that will evaporate completely in a few minutes while some I have gotten lately leaves an oily residue at the end. I have had gasoline where I get 400 cc that will evaporate in four hours and where practically all of the lead compound will evaporate at the same time. Other gasoline will not be so satisfactory. I have taken straight tetra ethyl lead and had the same experience. In fact the more I work with the material the more I am confused as to whether it is a

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real public health hazard. Meaning are our laboratory conditions comparable to commercial or industrial conditions. I am more than convinced that any skin contact will store lead over a long period of time. As to fumes I am still in the air. It seems to me that all depends on the conditions. Still I am convinced that there is some hazard, - the extent of which must be studied around garages and filling stations over a period of time and by unprejudiced persons.

Of course you must understand that my remarks are confidential. The tetra ethyl lead I used was furnished by the company.

Faithfully yours

Frederick B. F. L.

ETHYL "GAS" SALES STOPPED

New York, May 5.—[Special.]—Following the completion of Columbia university's investigation into the alleged harmful and dangerous qualities of leaded ethyl gasoline, the Ethyl Gasoline corporation, a subsidiary of the Standard Oil and General Motors, has announced that it would withdraw its product from the market.

The Columbia university report has been sent to Surgeon General Hugh S. Cumming of the public health service at Washington and to the Ethyl Gasoline company. The company in its statement indicated that the marketing of its product in the future would depend on the ethyl gasoline conference which the surgeon general has called in Washington for May 20.

The new gasoline, which reduces the "knock" in an automobile motor and makes gasoline "go" further, has been sold in 27 states, including New York and New Jersey, although it is barred in New York City. Announcement of its withdrawal from the market by the manufacturing company was followed by a statement from the Standard Oil Company of Indiana that its supply of ethyl gasoline has been cut off and that it would discontinue its sale.