



Wynn Oil Company

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AZUSA, CALIFORNIA

DEPARTMENT OF
RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

June 19, 1958

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.
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of Applied Physiology
College of Medicine
University of Cincinnati
Cincinnati, Ohio

Subject: Toxicology of Lead

Dear Dr. Kehoe:

We hope that you will forgive the liberty we are taking in addressing a letter directly to you on this most interesting subject.

Recently I was in communication with the State of California, Department of Health, talking to Paul Kaplan. I asked him certain questions regarding the processes of elimination of lead from the human system and he referred me to you. He stated that he felt quite sure that if I mentioned his name you would understand the importance of our problem.

Several years ago I attended a lead poisoning symposium by the E. I. du Pont de Nemours & Co. here in Los Angeles. At the symposium Dr. S. L. Rankin of the Medical Research Department of the du Pont Company presented some very excellent data and information on the rate of elimination of lead poisoning from the human system. His treatise, however, was directed toward the assimilation of lead poisoning through the respiratory system, particularly where workmen were brought into contact with TEL in gas phase. I recall his mentioning that there is apparently a lethal dosage from which there is no recovery but that if the lethal dosage level is not reached there is an excellent chance for complete recovery of the victim. This would indicate that the processes of metabolism and other biochemical processes within the body do reduce the lead level in the blood so that it is eliminated from the system.

Do you have any pertinent literature and/or data on this subject? Can you cite some pertinent references? We have one other question which is of interest to us but realize that you may not have any information on the subject. Has any work ever been done to your knowledge on the possible absorption of lead to produce lead poisoning through the skin on the hands where soluble organic lead soaps such as lead naphthenate are being used in very low percentage ratios. For example, suppose that a cutting or metal working oil contained 0.20% lead in the form of lead naphthenate. In your opinion is there any particular hazard involved?

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D. - 2.

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Any information or help that you can give us on this subject will be deeply appreciated.

Very truly yours,


S. I. Gleason, Ph. D.
Director of Research & Development

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