

THE ASSOCIATED ETHYL COMPANY LIMITED

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13th November, 1939.

Dr. R.A. Kehoe,
(Dept. of Physiology),
College of Medicine,
University of Cincinnati,
Cincinnati,
Ohio, U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Kehoe,

Cleaning of Storage Tanks.

Colonel Thenault has just reported to me an incident which he recently observed at the Standard refinery at Port Jérôme. He noticed that a storage tank was being cleaned and the men were working on the walls above the floating roof which was at its lowest position. Colonel Thenault reports that the men were wearing the complete regulation clothing but were not using air line gas masks. He says "instead they had a hood, with eye glasses and a kind of filter opposite the mouth. It is a contraption used in lead oxide industries".

I would appreciate your views on this matter and just wondered whether it would be permissible to adopt this method, say, with an approved canister mask, the canister of which embodied a "particulate" filter as well as an activated charcoal bed. In this case at Port Jérôme Colonel Thenault reports quite definitely that when the men were working below the roof they were equipped with the air masks, but it was rather difficult to transfer the apparatus to the open space when they were working on top of the roof.

Yours very truly,


H. FOSSETT.