

June 12, 1931

Dr. Thomas L. Jenkins,
Toppsfield, Mass.

Dear Dr. Jenkins:

I am sending you herewith a report which represents essentially the facts and opinions expressed by Dr. Schradin when he saw Mr. [REDACTED] some days ago.

I do not believe that I can contribute anything to the matter more than you and he have concluded. An absolute diagnosis in this sort of case strikes me as being rather difficult to make. It seems likely to me that the gasoline fumes and any unburned materials from the motor, plus a considerable concentration of carbon monoxide, were responsible for the acuteness of the onset. Under the condition of operation of these motors, there is likely to be from five to ten per cent of carbon monoxide in the exhaust, while if the motor was not in perfect condition as to its valves a considerable quantity more than this is possible. In addition, there are likely to be considerable concentrations of unburned gasoline and of irritating partial combustion products of gasoline. These materials, plus the excessive heat which I understand was prevailing at the time of the work, may very well have been responsible for the major portion of the man's illness. In any case, I can only reiterate to you what I said in part over the telephone, that the actual exposure to lead under these conditions must be regarded as negligible, while the symptoms and physical signs are in no way characteristic of lead intoxication in my opinion. The quick recovery in my opinion is quite sufficient to absolutely rule out the possibility of lead intoxication.

I do not know whether you will subscribe to these views and I do not mean in any way to attempt dogmatically to sway your opinion. I would be less than frank, however, if I did not thus state my own point of view.

Allow me to thank you sincerely for the courtesy which you extended to Dr. Schradin in permitting him to see your case and discuss it with you.

Cordially yours,

RAK:EJ