

July 15, 1936

Dr. Graham Edgar
Ethyl Gasoline Corporation
Chrysler Building
New York City
New York

Dear Graham:

No doubt you remember the general character of the case of George Ward, an employee of Socony Vacuum at Ogdensburg, as discussed with me in your office by Mr. Maxwell of the Claim Department of Socony Vacuum. Previously this man had developed what was diagnosed as lead poisoning in 1933 and 1934, but returned to his work some time later. He died August 23rd, 1935 of coronary thrombosis and was found at necropsy to have general blood vessel disease which because of his previous illness, was regarded by the pathologist as secondary to lead absorption and lead poisoning.

In accordance with my agreement with Mr. Maxwell, I went to Ogdensburg last Wednesday expecting to appear as a witness before the Industrial Commission referee on the 10th. As it happened, the case had gone the rounds of a number of attorneys, a new one having come into the case on the 9th and he being unprepared, the case before the referee was adjourned until a later date, probably some time in late August or early September. However, I had an opportunity to investigate the situation and to discuss the matter in detail with all the physicians concerned in the case. It became quite apparent that there was no basis for the original diagnosis of lead poisoning and the doctors and the pathologist concurred that it was extremely unlikely that lead had anything to do with this man's illness and death. In as much as some of the tissues were still available for analysis, it was arranged that these should be sent to me for study and the results reported first to Dr. Porro, the pathologist, and afterwards to the legal representative of Socony Vacuum. Although the case has not been settled, it seems likely that these arrangements will result in settling the matter substantially before it comes to a hearing. Undoubtedly, however, there will be a hearing and I shall probably have to return to Ogdensburg at that time.

Dr. Graham Edgar

I assume that you have no particular interest in a complete file on this case. Therefore, unless you want some additional information, I shall content myself with merely passing on to you such later information as develops.

Sincerely yours,

RAK:is

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.

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