

THOMAS A. EDISON, INC.



ORANGE, N.J., U.S.A.

November
thirtieth
1931

Dr. R. A. Kehoe,
University of Cincinnati,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

Dear Dr. Kehoe:

At one of our subsidiary plants, The Emark Battery Corporation, which is located at Kearny, New Jersey, we are manufacturing lead automotive Storage Batteries, and we are consequently interested in the industrial control of lead poisoning. From the physical standpoint we are exerting every effort to provide healthy working conditions for our employees. During the two years that the plant has been in operation, we have not had a serious case of lead poisoning. Through the present interpretation of the New Jersey Workmen's Compensation Law covering occupational diseases, however, our losses have been greatly out of proportion, in our opinion, to the severity of the cases that have developed.

Your name has been suggested by Dr. H. H. Kessler of the New Jersey Rehabilitation Clinic, as one of the leading authorities in the United States on lead poisoning. For the purpose of obtaining reliable and impartial opinions we have prepared a short questionnaire covering the medico-legal aspect of this subject, two copies of which are attached. We will greatly appreciate your courtesy if you will return one copy with your comments.

It is our intention to use a summary of the replies in discussing the administration of the law with the Commissioner of Labor on Saturday, December 5, 1931, but you will not be quoted directly unless your assent is indicated.

Yours very truly,

THOMAS A. EDISON, INCORPORATED.

H. A. Edison
Personnel Manager

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LEAD POISONING QUESTIONNAIRE

(1) Do you believe that mild cases of lead poisoning without manifest symptoms which are arrested in the incipient stage may be completely cured without leaving any permanent disability?

(2) As a basis of awarding compensation for permanent disability, do you believe that the following evidence is sufficient?

- (a) History of lead exposure.
- (b) Period of temporary disability with objective findings.
- (c) Disappearance of objective symptoms after treatment.
- (d) Only remaining symptoms entirely subjective.

(3) Suppose a case has the same history as outlined in question No. 2, do you consider a fine tremor of outstretched fingers as sufficient evidence of impairment of the central nervous system to warrant an award for permanent disability?

(4) Granting that severe cases of lead poisoning may result in permanent disability, what symptoms should form the basis for a minimum compensation award?

(5) May definite medical standards be established to govern awards for percentages of total permanent disability?

(6) For the purpose mentioned in our letter, have you any objections to granting permission to quote your replies?

Signed _____

Date _____

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