



E. I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS & COMPANY
INCORPORATED
WAYNESBORO, VIRGINIA

RAYON DEPARTMENT
ACETATE DIVISION

May 8, 1947

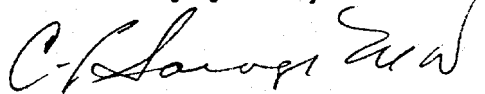
Dr. Robert A. Kehoe
Director of Kettering Laboratory
College of Medicine
University of Cincinnati
Cincinnati 19, Ohio

Dear Dr. Kehoe:

Thank you very much for your letter of
May 2 regarding lead in gasoline. The information
which you gave me was exactly what I desired.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,


C. L. SAVAGE, M. D.
Medical Supervisor

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May 2, 1947

Dr. C. L. Savage,
Medical Supervisor,
E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Co., Inc.,
Waynesboro, Va.

Dear Dr. Savage:

It is difficult if not impossible to give an even approximately accurate answer to the question raised in your letter of the 25th. In general, gasoline would be expected to have very little lead in it. Rather rarely, in our experience, is it completely lacking in lead compounds, and the concentration that is likely to be found even under conditions giving rise to the least contamination, will be of the order of .01 to .03 milligram per liter. This, as you will recognize, is negligible, being in rough correspondence to what is found in drinking water, by and large. On the other hand, gasoline and other petroleum products are commonly treated with litharge and caustic soda to remove sulfur compounds, and this results in the suspension of finely divided lead compounds in commercial gasoline. The particulate matter tends to settle out in the first tank in which the gasoline is stored, but smaller quantities settle out in subsequent storage tanks, and it is not unusual to find that a good many pounds of lead compound lie in the bottom of a storage tank, as evidence of the fact that the gasoline when introduced into the tank had appreciable quantities of lead compounds in suspension. As you can see, this makes it very difficult to say what will be present in a given sample of gasoline.

For practical purposes, and for use in cleaning generally, the lead concentration in clear gasoline which has never been treated with tetraethyl lead, is an item of no importance.

I hope this gives you the information you need, but if I have missed some point of practical importance, in relation to your question, do not hesitate to let me know.

Sincerely yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

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