

April 30, 1935

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

Dear Dr. Edgar:

I am enclosing herewith copy of my
reply to Mr. W. G. Violette of the Standard Oil
Company of Kentucky at Louisville in order to com-
plete your file.

Very truly yours,

RAK:is

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.

April 30, 1935

Mr. W. C. Violette
Standard Oil Company
Louisville,
Kentucky

Dear Mr. Violette:-

Your letter of April 20th addressed to Mr. Webb of the Ethyl Gasoline Corporation has been referred to me since it concerns one of your employees who has been thought to show certain evidences of lead absorption.

I have gone over the report from the Hogan Clinic from which the following facts seem to be shown. Mr. [REDACTED] and Mr. [REDACTED] appeared to have shown slight evidences of carbon monoxide absorption. This must have been the result of exposure to exhaust gases and it, of course, has no relation to lead absorption.

The examination of Mr. [REDACTED] blood seems also to have shown certain abnormalities in the form of a few abnormal red cells and one or two per cent of abnormal white cells. This is the only suggestive evidence which I can make out in the entire report that any lead absorption has occurred. It should be pointed out that stippled red cells occur in a number of conditions and they can not, therefore, be regarded as definite evidence of lead absorption. It may be that one of the physicians in the case has regarded the presence of these cells as indicative of lead absorption or at least suggestive of lead absorption. On the other hand the very extensive investigation of handlers of leaded gasoline which we have carried on over a period of now more than ten years, has failed to show any evidence of lead absorption in these workmen. I do not think, therefore, that we are justified in disregarding all of the evidence accumulated over a period of years in favor of a single clinical test which is uncertain in its interpretation.

If there are any further developments in connection with this case, I should like to be informed of them in order that we may take any steps which seem to be justified. However, I do not regard the

Mr. W. G. Violette

information available at present as sufficient justification for any investigation on our part. As I see it there is no evidence whatever that this man has absorbed lead, and there is every reason to believe that he did not absorb significant amounts of lead from his occupation. Therefore, unless some circumstance develops to make an issue of the matter, I consider it wise to take no action.

Very truly yours,

RAK:ls

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.

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