

BIRMINGHAM REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD

Telephone: EDG. 1182

REGIONAL BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE

In reply please quote

17, Highfield Road

Ref. WW/JW.

Birmingham, 15

5th September, 1949.

Dr. W. d'A. Maycock,
Ministry of Health,
Whitehall,
London, S.W.1.

R.B.T.O. meeting
✓

Dear Dr. Maycock,

I wonder whether you would think the following problem worth while taking up at the next R.B.T.O. Conference.

In my opinion the transmission of jaundice has only in one case been proved to be due to the virus of endemic hepatitis. Most cases, though not proved, are obviously due to the transmission of the virus of serum hepatitis. According to De Gowan the most likely source of infection in a donor is a previous injection, and he advises to eliminate as donors, everybody who has had an injection during the past six months.

It seems to me obvious that this might be right, but nobody to my knowledge, has so far mentioned the dentists, who on many occasions use injections, and whose methods of sterilisation of needles are not up to standard.

Experimentally I tried to eliminate all the donors who have had an injection during the past six months, and found, rather to my surprise, that we had for this reason to reject twelve out of forty donors. Most of these people were dental cases.

It is obvious that we cannot just strike off so large a percentage of donors, but on the other hand I feel that this problem could perhaps with advantage be discussed, as other R.B.T.O's might have some views, or better still, some experience on this subject.

Looking forward to seeing you soon,

Yours sincerely,

GRO-C