

19
21st October, 1947.

Dear Dr. Clegg,

There still seems to be a large number of doctors who do not appreciate that both plasma and serum carry a risk of homologous serum jaundice, and that this disease is rather more than a "transfusion reaction". There is a small number who believe that the disease may follow the use of serum, but never that of plasma!

We are gradually increasing the output of small-pool plasma which will probably significantly diminish the risk of the disease; meanwhile, we label each bottle clearly with a warning of the risk which may attend its use, and try by other ways to make the profession realise the dangers of its indiscriminate use. We are particularly keen to have cases reported to the Regional Transfusion Centres, so that bottles of suspected icterogenic batches may be withdrawn. This object is often defeated by omission to make a record of the bottle numbers in the case notes. It is then impossible to withdraw the offending batch.

I have been told by the Regional Transfusion Officer at Bristol that descriptions of 3 cases of homologous serum jaundice are being submitted to you for publication in B.M.J., and I wondered whether you would consider this an appropriate time for a leader, or annotation, on the disease, stressing the practical importance of such small points as recording batch number? You helped in this way about a year ago.

Yours sincerely,

GRO-C: Maycock

Adviser in Transfusion.

Dr. H. Clegg,
British Medical Journal,
B.M.A. House.