

Wd'AM/AGM

2nd August, 1965.

Dr. R.J. Drummond,  
Regional Transfusion Centre,  
Rhyd-Iafar,  
St. Fagans, Cardiff.

Dear Drummond,

Serum Hepatitis

I am afraid I have been able to do anything about your letter of the 19th July as the Medical Statistician of the Ministry of Health has recently left to take up a position in Scotland. I shall show your letter to his successor when he has been appointed. It certainly looks on the face of it that a number of cases of serum hepatitis are not being detected at the Cardiff Royal Infirmary, although I am not sure whether the figures are large enough to make this difference significant.

Have you seen the article on "Post-Transfusion Anicteric Hepatitis" by Hampers et al, New England Journal of Medicine 1964, 271, page 747? He reports that in the previous 4 years in the Medical Services of the Philadelphia General Hospital have found an incidence of 5 cases per 10,000 transfusions. It seems clear from the context that this means 10,000 units of blood administered. This is an incidence of .05 per cent, i.e. slightly higher than that found in the Welsh Region excluding the Cardiff Royal Infirmary. However, he found an attack rate of anicteric hepatitis equivalent to 870 per 10,000 units transfused, i.e. an incidence of 8.7 per cent, and concludes that in Philadelphia General Hospital there may have been over 100 cases of anicteric hepatitis for each icteric case diagnosed. His figures are statistically significant.

I shall be away on holiday until the 25th August.

Yours sincerely,

GRO-C

W. d'A. Maycock.