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jgw.imm 2.167

9 December 1980

Dr R Mitchell
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Dear Ruthven

FACTOR VIII SUPPLY AND DEMAND

You are right, no one can read my usual handwriting except with great difficulty so I write personally only under the greatest provocation and mindful of the sensitivity of the subject matter for the recipient.

Whether you can accept it or not it is a fact that I learnt of your letter first when I received a number of phone calls from other fractionators curious to know why I could not process your plasma. The BMJ arrives here late so I discover the correspondence after my colleagues. Your letter certainly did not give indication that you were speaking only of England and the plurality of your remarks lend strength to the conclusion which several readers managed to achieve.

Despite your comments I can say that there has been a great level of secrecy surrounding your project of which I learnt first in England; my informant was aghast and unbelieving when I denied all knowledge.

Unlike yourself I believe that the preparation of freeze-dried cryoprecipitate is a step back in history and find it a suitable product for Turkey (perhaps) but not Scotland where we discarded a better product in 1972 as being unsuitable to the state of clinical practice.

Most European countries making dried cryoprecipitate are those stuck with a historical accident and vested interests in the status quo as well as a huge budget for high purity material. There are others where the stories seem (to me at least) to have a basic flow and the numbers do not add up as one would wish.

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Dr R Mitchell - jgw.imm 2.167/2

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I did attend the workshop on cryoprecipitate and was more than a little disturbed to learn that 1940 technology was used to explain or excuse the lack of GMP awareness in 1980.

Thank you for the quotation from Pasteur. It adds much to but detracts nothing from my thesis on freeze-dried cryoprecipitate.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely

JOHN G WATT
Scientific Director