

*Haemophilia -
put a draft
report of Biggs
to RRC (amended)
on 15/1*

Mr Draper

On 15 January we met Dr Bunje and Dr Dickens of the MRC to consider how the proposed review article which Dr Rosemary Biggs had prepared on Haemophilia might be amended to avoid publishing embarrassingly wide differences of opinion about the quantity of concentrate needed to achieve self sufficiency and the cost of commercial preparations. Dr Biggs was present which made it difficult to point out that the form of the article was not entirely suited to a publication carrying the imprimatur of the MRC. It was apparent that neither Dr Bunje nor Dr Biggs were in favour of dropping the idea of publication.

We established that publication was not before September 1976 at the earliest, and that the article was intended for the intelligent layman rather than the professional man. It was explained that it would nevertheless be read by the professional man and by pressure groups who wished to use the contents to bring pressure to bear on the Department.

Dr Biggs confirmed that her figure of 500,000 plus donations related to the UK, a fact which would be made clear in the Report. The figure covered AHG presented both as cryoprecipitate and freeze dried concentrate.

It was not clear from which source Dr Biggs obtained her estimate (£5 million) of the cost of commercial supplies but it is apparently an estimate of the cost of obtaining AHG, in whatever form, from commercial sources. It was eventually agreed that it would be slightly less embarrassing to refer to several millions. Dr Biggs also agreed to work into the article a reference to increasing supplies of NHS freeze dried concentrate becoming available and the need, when counselling haemophiliacs, to encourage them to be reasonably circumspect in the activities they undertook.

January 1976

T E DUTTON

Copies to: Dr Maycock / 27/1
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