



Coleg Meddygaeth Prifysgol Cymru
University of Wales College of Medicine

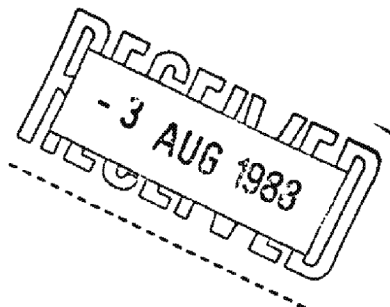
Professor A. L. Bloom

ALB/PR

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Dear John,

I have received a rather plaintive letter from Harold Roberts following the Wembley Conference. As you know Harold is one of the most distinguished Haemophilia Physicians and Scientists. He is a most caring and honest individual and I think was deeply hurt by what he considered to be a personal attack upon him.

Although I think that he is over-reacting he does make some appropriate points which, had I been more on the ball, I would have picked up from the Chair. For instance the "high-heat" method is unpublished and the material sparingly available in the UK only. From an international point of view it is therefore no great advance.

With regard to the financial provenance of commercial concentrates also, only Baxter and Armour are US companies. Cutter (Bayer) and Hoechst are German and Alpha is Japanese. Wellcome, also operative in the haemophilia field via AZT, is British and AZT is expensive. Harold is to be forgiven therefore for being miffed at an apparent attack solely on his countrymen.

Finally I do not think that it is possible or desirable to hold up medico-scientific progress, Haemophiliacs are deficient only in factor VIII, as far as we know. Surely therefore the ultimate aim should be to replace only factor VIII. Whilst I agree with some of your financial sentiments and pragmatic implications I agree with Harold that we should still be supporting the general move to "pure" products. What we should be doing is to encourage national self-sufficiency of blood products and the development of non-blood derived materials.

Kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

GRO:C

A L BLOOM