

26th May, 1950.

Dr. J. Garrett Allen,
Department of Surgery,
950, East Fifty-ninth Street,
Chicago, 37,
Illinois.

Dear Dr. Allen,

In answer to your letter of the 18th May, I assume that the report you refer to is that published by the Medical Officers of the Ministry in the Lancet 1948, i, 83. The batches Nos. K69 and K.688 prepared as described early in the report, were stored before distribution at ordinary refrigerator temperature, 2° - 4° C. It is not possible to say how it was stored after issue, and one may probably correctly assume that some of the containers were not refrigerated.

You will remember that I have written to you before about the possible effects of different methods of storages on the survival of the virus of homologous serum jaundice, and I am most interested to hear that you have not found cases of hepatitis following the use of fluid plasma stored at room temperature.

Some pertinent observations have recently been made in the Red Cross New South Wales Transfusion Service (Dr. R.J. Walsh), 374, George Street, Sydney. This service uses serum to which merthiolate is added. After preparation the serum is held for 2-3 months at room temperature before issue. The Australians previously stated that homologous serum jaundice did not occur. After making a survey on the lines of those published in the B.M.J. 1946, ii, 409, by Dr. J. Vaughan, and Lehan et al. B.M.J. 1949, ii, 572, it has apparently been discovered that homologous serum jaundice is occurring. The incidence

in 1,271 patients, who were traced and survived for 6 months after transfusion, was 2.5%. There have been multiple cases in the same batch of serum, and apparently one death. Perhaps you would care to write to Dr. Walsh for detailed information about these findings, since they tend to show that storage of serum at room temperature does not prevent the survival of the virus.

I would be interested to know how your follow-up was made. I think it would be true to say that here we were sceptical of the occurrence of this disease until the results of detailed and arduous follow-up investigations should that it was undoubtedly present.

It is noteworthy that some of the cases reported by Vaughan et.al. probably followed the use of fluid plasma and serum stored at room temperature.

Yours sincerely,

W. d'A. MAYCOCK

Technical Adviser in Blood Transfusion