

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

CHICAGO 37 • ILLINOIS

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

950 EAST FIFTY-NINTH STREET

June 1, 1950

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Dr. W.D.A. Maycock
Ministry of Health
Whitehall, London, S.W.1
England

Dear Dr. Maycock:

I appreciate your letter of May 26th which arrived yesterday. I am fully aware of all of the problems that you raise and I only wish that we could answer some of them more satisfactorily. I have not yet seen Lehane's article but will look it up today or tomorrow. Vaughan's article I think I know but the article did not describe that the plasma had been stored at room temperature. I will try to contact her soon.

As for our own experience, it is roughly stated in the letter to Dr. Walsh. However, we are reviewing these records again and checking points at which errors are most apt to creep in in this type of examination and so the figures quoted to Dr. Walsh may vary somewhat in the final analysis. Also the method by which we have collected our data you will find outlined in the letter to Dr. Walsh, and certainly we want to admit the difficulties as well as the unsatisfactory nature of such a record attempt. Now that we have been able to prove the direct transmission of the disease in our community from whole blood, I think we can pretty largely leave that group of patients alone and concentrate our efforts on those who received plasma. It may be possible to make a more personal inquiry into those cases and obtain more substantial information. On the other hand, we are perplexed by the apparent incidence of homologous serum jaundice in patients receiving blood and we cannot see any reason why patients receiving our plasma and developing latent jaundice should automatically be immunized against a return visit to our Clinics.

A survey of the literature has been interesting to us as we are not virologists, in fact my work is surgery, but in running down the resistant qualities of a number of viral diseases pathogenic for man, we have discovered what the virologist has known all along, namely that the most suitable means for preserving viral activity

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for a long period of time is to 1) lyophilize, 2) store at dry ice temperatures, 3) deep freeze, or 4) refrigeration. These, of course, are favorite methods for the preservation of plasma. This same literature survey indicates that even though a number of these viruses are quite resistant to temperatures of 56-60°C. for different periods of time, they resist room temperature storage in the absence of living cells or glycerine (very poorly).

I think when we have completed our survey our conclusions will be about as follows: "if you must lyophilize your plasma, sterilize it first." When we have completed our article, I will send you a reprint or a copy of it as soon as I can make one available.

Very sincerely yours,

GRO-C

J. Garrett Allen, M.D.

jga/ca
enc.