

NATIONAL BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE
(REGION VIII—WALES)

Telephone :
CARDIFF 4520/1

REGIONAL TRANSFUSION CENTRE
19 NEWPORT ROAD
CARDIFF

13th October, 1950.

Dr. W. d'A Maycock,
Ministry of Health,
Whitehall,
London, S.W.1.

Dear Dr. Maycock,

Homologous Serum Jaundice.

Re number of large pool plasma cases of Homologous Serum Jaundice, I think there must be some misunderstanding because you mentioned in your letter some of our cases since 1945 have received "large pool" plasma. What I was referring to in my letter was large pool liquid plasma as made here as opposed to large pool dried plasma sent to us from London. In fact, the great majority of the cases notified to me here have been cases ^{invariably} of large pool dried plasma sent from London. Dr. Bevan has kindly made a survey of all the cases we have had notified and she finds that we have a total of 58 cases and in addition there is one doubtful case. Most of these have had large pool dried plasma, especially Canadian. We are somewhat disconcerted to find that although we have processed very large amounts of liquid plasma in large batches and such large pool home-made liquid plasma has been used very extensively in Cardiff and in Newport, among all the hundreds or probably thousands of cases which have received this plasma we have had only one case of Homologous Serum Jaundice notified to us. It cannot be, I think that the large pool liquid plasma we make can be more free of virus contamination than large or small pool dried plasma, so our conclusion is that the cases are not being notified to us. A total of 59 cases in five years must be very far from reality. Incidentally, of the 58 or 59 cases notified to us, 4 have died. These figures do not include cases of Homologous Serum Jaundice which occurred in service-men and refugees evacuated from Flanders either at the time of Dunkirk or the invasion of Normandy in 1945. Those cases were in charge of military units and we did see some of them as a matter of interest, but there were no records of the serial numbers of plasma transfused, and as far as I can recollect there were three or four fatalities.

Yours sincerely,

GRO-C: Drummond

I think you must agree the above state of affairs is very unsatisfactory. It might be interesting to know the numbers of cases notified to the R.B.T.O. unless you have reasons to the contrary I intend to refer this matter to our Hospital Board.