120A

Mr Baker

Inspection of BLOOD PRODUCTS LABORATORY, ELSTREE

BPL was reinspected by Messrs Ayling and Flint on 5-6th March.

As the report will show some improvements of working areas were apparent, and many changes are proposed, some of which we were aware of.

It must be stressed that in general, BPL in no way meets the standards expected and found in UK industry.

Specifically.

(i) No Quality Control system for testing raw materials, work in process and for proper release of finished products.

(ii) Many areas are well below acceptable standards, and autoclaves have still not been commissioned !

(iii) Totally inadequate staff/staffing levels for many areas.

(iv) Ill defined areas of responsibility for present staff.

Some of these areas were again said to be being rectified in the near future.

May I ask you to consider what the Inspectorate terms of reference should be in these circumstances ?

If we try to inspect as, or would do for industry, we are only pressurising BPL when they cannot respond.

Until the new staff proposed eg.,

Factory Manager ("Deputy Director Administrator")
Quality Controller
Chief Engineer

are appointed, the proper staff will not be present.

Dr Lane patently cannot manage the Laboratory. He does not see himself as the Manager !

It was suggested to Dr Lane that he should nominate one of his staff as 'senior' so that this person could coordinate matters, and ensure no further "buck passing".

Dr Lane does not consider anybody worthy of this and thinks that the new job descriptions being drawn up will resolve this situation.

6 March 1981

GRO-C

JOHN AYLING