

4th. December 1949.

My dear Henry,

I am immensely glad that the interim recommendations we have drafted do really meet with your hearty approval. It is such a relief to find that a statement from the English committee need not be paralysed by all the minor difficulties and conventional choices which involve no point of principle and in which one convention is almost as good as another.

I think we are in time now to change the locus symbol from R to L for the III factor without causing confusion and I agree with you entirely that L is the most suitable symbol for this locus. Apart from Lepus, now sadly defunct, it has after all Landsteiner and Levine to recommend it.

Senior is, I understand, obstinately determined to use R_0 , but this will matter little if others in England and America feel free to use R without ambiguity. He has, I think, a feeling of having

acquired patent rights in Macrone's ergin, although that worthy animal is, I suppose, now never used in preparing the antibodies of the rhesus factor.

On the general question of affixes, suffices etc. American printers are certainly going to find greater difficulties than the better printers, at least in England, and as it is the American geneticists who have been forward in pressing for the use of indices rather than suffices it may, perhaps, be best to let them discover their own difficulties, merely offering, in case these should become troublesome, the alternative analytic notation with a triple index g₁₂₃, which will always be distinctive. I have little doubt that after a few years this will be fairly generally used in the States as it already is in England. But at present there are very few serologists or geneticists familiar with the distinctions which have to be drawn, and the great point will be won if by the time hospital pathologists in any numbers need a notation for their findings one is found already prepared and approved for their use.

Looking forward to seeing you on Thursday week,