

Thursday night.

15 October 1942

JHB

My dear Ren.

You will be excited to hear that the work has begun, and I had my first Hospital visit today. All went off better, I think, than I expected. They had eight tubes of blood for me, and had collected a good quantity: 10 c.c. each, I should say. I then went round the wards and took the mother's and the infant's saliva myself, obtaining the infant's sex also. I had no trouble at all, and found it easy to get saliva from the infants. Whether in sufficient quantity I am not sure. It may be that I shall have to try to obtain more - and I don't think this will be difficult. Indeed I shall endeavour to do so whatever Saylor reports. The whole work, from going to the Hospital to pooling the samples occupied 2 hours; which is fully as quick as I had expected, and quite satisfactory. I brought the saliva back and tested it here. I marked the tubes for mother and child in this sort of way:-

Smith
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Smith baby ♂ 12.7.42
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Giving sex and date of birth.

I have advanced one step further in collaboration. One of the infants had died soon after birth

(naturally I noted this on the tube of blood) and the mother had been sent home (apparently a couple of days after the birth!). I have now got an arrangement by which in an event of this sort they telephone for me, and I come and get the mother's saliva before she leaves and (if this turns out to be practicable) that of the dead infant.

Evidently I shall be rather heavy on supplies: you see I used 8 blood and 14 saliva tubes today. Taylor sent me special envelopes which, he said, hold two blood ~~boxes~~ tube boxes each. I find they hold 3, and that I can get all the saliva tubes into one box in another of the special envelopes: so 4 of these were used today.

So I think all seems satisfactory. I make my next collection on Saturday morning (the afternoon I am asked to avoid, being visiting day). In what condition the blood reaches Taylor after that length of time in the post, must be a matter for his careful consideration.

Ever yours,

Henry