

10 August 1945

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

CONFIDENTIAL

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Dear Dr Levine,

I am exceedingly glad to have your letter of August 1st as I ^{have} long wished to make more direct contact with you and find that I am in entire agreement with what you say in your latter paragraphs. Medically the important matter is the connexion with erythroblastosis foetalis, and in the elucidation of the genetic situation it has been immune human sera rather than animal sera which have proved important. I have felt for some year or two that it was hasty, if not unethical, to assume that Taylor's Steadman factor, γ , was to be identified with your original Hr. I have no doubt, however, that γ has been since identified in the United States, and think that when its properties were found to agree with those reported by Taylor and Race, the very fine use which they had made of this serum should have been appreciated.

From the early paragraphs of your letter I gather that we ^{ought} not now ^{to} identify the powerful antibody, which you later obtained and identified with Hr, with the hypothetical δ of my system. This is

in the nature of a setback, though personally I thought it exceedingly lucky that δ should be identified so soon. Even if, however, it happened not to exist, I think that the clarification introduced into the subject by recognizing these pairs of elementary antigens (which I have called e , d and g) will not easily be swept aside.

Do you not think that with a little organization it should prove feasible to interchange antibodies, packed perhaps in dry ice or a thermos flask for air transit? The literature is somewhat bespattered with reported antibodies which have only been used in one laboratory, and I am sure the subject would be much advanced if the same individuals could be tested with a largish battery of appropriate reagents. It may, for example, be quite a while before you in the States have a potent sample of η or perhaps before any of us have a good δ . Yet these would both be valuable in furthering research on the subject.

Yours sincerely,