

Copy of letter from Dr G.L.Taylor, dated 5th April, 1940

from Fairfield,
Carbis Bay, Cornwall.

My dear Chief,

Your letter and the one you enclose from O'Brien came this evening. I do not know whether you intend, as O'Brien suggests, to send a report via the M.R.C. In case they may help you I am making comments on some of the points.

The position with regard to the work in human genetics and the work done is as described in your account of May 11th 1939.

The present position of the Unit is in accordance with the contents of the official letter of appointment, sent to me by Landsborough Thomson in July 1939 (Copy enclosed). In addition to collecting and supplying grouping serum, problems which have cropped up are being investigated, and we are making M-N diagnoses of large numbers of cases with a view to discovering whether the formation of antibodies to these antigens may be responsible for the ill effects, sometimes found, on second and subsequent transfusions. M-N factors are also being used to trace the survival in the recipient's blood of stored cells when transfused. Other lines are the re-examination of Janet Vaughan's B's, and the $A_1:A_2$ ratio for Scotland, which should begin as soon as Stewart in Edinburgh and Cappell in Dundee are ready; postal containers have been sent to both places. I have not heard yet that any samples have arrived, but they may have.

Only the M.R.C. can furnish complete and final financial details. I believe you enquired last Autumn of the M.R.C. the financial position. O'Brien says they have the accounts up to 30.6.'39, sent to them by the M.R.C. on 9.XL.'39. Very little more

financial needs to be dealt with, for I believe that from September 1st, 1939, at the latest our upkeep was taken over by the M.R.C. on behalf of H.M. Government. The increases due in salary have been paid and ~~the~~ rates are now

G.L. Taylor	£750
R.R. Race	£450
A.M. Prior	£300
E.W. Ikin	£250
Douglas Keetch	£1 per week

George Tipper replaced recently by a girl
at 17/6d per week.

I believe we hold about £1 petty cash, and I doubt whether the balance at the Westminster Bank has been reduced since November.

If the Unit continues in its present job at Cambridge, it will be held together, and the expenses of maintaining it, whilst thus engaged, will be borne by the Government. Of course the authorities may behave in the most unreasonable and unpredictable ways, but I cannot see how they can readily dispense with us during the war, unless they decide blood transfusion is a back-number. So long as blood-grouping is of importance and problems arise, use really ought to be made of us, for we are the only "professionals" in the country. If the Government decided we were no longer needed, or when the war ended, we should at once try to pick up the threads of our work which were broken when we began the emergency duties, and for this we should have to ask the Rockefeller Foundation for financial help.

Amongst papers returned to you herewith is the latest list of published papers - I have written on it one or two suggestions. When the offprints of the M.M.J. paper (G.L.T. and E.W.I.) came, you were in the room when the parcel was opened and were given the first, for I remember you criticised them because there was nothing to show on which page of the Journal a particular paragraph appeared. I am writing to Cambridge asking that a complete set of our papers shall be sent to you, and an additional copy of the B.M.J.(G.L.T. and E.W.I.) for yourself. A set was assembled for sending with your memorandum last May. We always send them to O'Brien personally as they are ready. If you do not send off the latest set, we should be glad of them, as some of the earlier ones are getting short. It may be necessary for you to ask Stevens for one of the Gene frequency paper he wrote.

If I can give more information or take any steps in regard to any of the matters raised, please let me know. I shall return to Cambridge next week-end. I have not made it known, but you will be interested to know that I am to be admitted to the membership of the Royal College of Physicians on April 25th. I have submitted published work.

We are enjoying our time in Cornwall, and being most fortunate with the weather.

Yours ever,

(SIGNED)

G.L.TAYLOR

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