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June 5, 1947

Dear R C,

Tonight, about an hour ago we finished the last of the series of another experiment, and I stopped by the other office and found your letter. This study was what we have been hoping for, for each of four nights we have taken four men to the house to see the two girls that we had prepared with the infection, and each man had as many tries as he wanted, most of them took two; of the sixteen men one or two took only one trial, while several took three. The next step, if this does not work, will be to send the boys to their houses with a note from us. We shall see.

Of the last study, of 24 single exposures to three sources of infection only 1 infection resulted, and that was in one of the eight men exposed to one source; all of them had had alcohol to drink before the exposure. In an official letter we will send you the complete protocol. But in any event it seems that the natural exposure with these men is rather low. Perhaps it is that the men are like rabbits. In the groups given two or more chances, though, the second try in the same evening takes a good deal longer than two or four minutes, running to 10 or 15, so that we may expect a few more infections from this group.

We shall continue, at the same time, with the experiments utilizing application of pus to the group. However to do this we have to get our groups assembled and have to secure a donor with an infection sufficient to give enough pus. In the last one that I did personally we had only 1 of the three controls infected, and I think that the reason was that on the morning of the inoculation the donor had very little secretion, and furthermore he had had for 10 days of the three weeks preceding sulfa which was useless in a resistant infection.

I was out of the running for about a week with a very severe and debilitating diarrhea which was so bad that when it hit me I nearly fainted at the dinner table and barely made it to bed under my own power. But now I am fully recovered and back at work.

We are watching the results of the two inoculation experiments with much interest. The results of the local application show nothing yet, but at just three weeks it is too soon. The patients having received the intracutaneous inoculations show a good deal more, with the majority showing papules of varying degrees of redness and induration and local adenopathy. We bled the group again yesterday, so that we may soon have some changes to report. As you can imagine we are all holding our breaths, and we are explaining to the patients and others concerned ~~that this~~ with but a few key exceptions, that the treatment is a new one utilizing serum followed by penicillin. His double talk keeps me hopping at times.

Sunday we hope to reach San Jose to work again on the children, the roads permitting, and will send you the results completely worked up as soon as possible. We have begun with the orphanage, but have barely touched it, so that there is nothing to report.