

14th. September, 1942.

Dear Taylor,

I have just had a visit from Ford who has told me of the further progress he has made during the summer in making arrangements with the Radcliffe Infirmary. They expect to start early in October but at first without taking blood-samples from the mothers; consequently the material to be sent for grouping will for a time consist only of blood-samples from the cords, at the rate of about 20 a week, if our reckoning is right; with twice as many saliva samples on as you suggested. At this rate, Ford will need a larger current supply of tubes than he has so far.

I think you said that consignments sent twice a week would suit your programme. I expect also you will be in direct touch with Ford before making an actual start: so as to let me and him know if you foresee any difficulty or point where we can co-operate to make the programme run smoothly.

Some of the mothers will be of blood-groups known already, what proportion is of course now uncertain. Those that are secretors will I suppose be tolerably well grouped from the saliva. Ford has every confidence that after the Hospital has some experience of what is needed it will be possible to get direct blood-groupings of at least a usefully large number of the remaining mothers. However in view of the interest of the contrast between surviving children and the still-births and early deaths, groupings of a good series of children only will be very well worth having.

I very much hope that later the programme can be completed by titrations of the anti-body content of the mother's sera when these can be obtained.

With best of luck,  
Yours sincerely,