

May 13, 1942

My dear Taylor,

Thanks for returning Ford's letter and your reply.

If I understand the situation aright, we may reasonably expect cells of new-born infants to contain the appropriate antigens, though the corresponding antibodies may often be lacking from the serum. The confirmation of blood group obtainable by testing the serum will, I imagine, for this reason often be lacking, and a proportion - perhaps the majority - of the infants must be grouped on cells only.

With this in view I suggest that umbilical blood samples should be tried for births occurring on Saturday and Sunday, and that for the remaining 70% of the births a few drops of blood should be drawn from the infant on the Saturday following its birth, and sent to you with the whole blood sample from the mother. This would, I hope, enable you to handle all the material in conformity with your own weekly time-table.

It may be, of course, that the examination of the serum from infants will be totally uninformative, i.e., that all interesting reactions between mother and child are due to the formation of antibodies in the mother corresponding with antigens of the foetus. The proportion of cases in which umbilical blood will be available

will, however, be sufficient to enable you to detect, if it occurs, any proportion of cases in which antibody production has been stimulated in the infant.

I need hardly say how much I appreciate your cooperation in this survey.

Yours sincerely,