

September 20, 1945

Mr. Joseph J. Kleiner
Becton, Dickinson and Company
Rutherford, New Jersey

Dear Mr. Kleiner:

Please accept my thanks for the promptness with which you forwarded the supplies referred to in your letter of September 11th. We received the regular tubes and also the especially clean ones. Unfortunately 52 of the 200 regular stock tubes were broken in transit, as a result of improper packing. I am calling your attention to this matter particularly for the reason that the broken tubes represent a loss in themselves and also served to contaminate the other tubes to some degree. They will have to be packed quite carefully if this difficulty is to be avoided.

Incidentally it is our feeling that the individual tubes should probably have labels on them and should be wrapped separately in paper. The addition of the label will be convenient and will reduce the amount of handling required of the user, while the individual wrapping will keep each tube clean as well as so separated that breakage will be less likely. I realize it will require additional operations on your part and will probably cost something but it seems worthwhile.

I enclose herewith a report of our observations on your specially cleaned tubes as compared with results obtained on your regular stock tubes and on tubes cleaned by us. I think these results will serve to show you that the special cleaning by the methods you used serve no useful purpose. On the other hand tubes cleaned by us were considerably better with the one exception. This exception is an interesting example of the difficulties associated with the handling of equipment of this kind even under the best of conditions. From time to time a tube is likely to be contaminated. Certainly a skilled technician could avoid this altogether but routine work of this kind in the hands of ordinary personnel will not be 100% effective. It is not likely that such a result will be obtained once in ten attempts but such a thing will occur certainly from time to time. It is quite apparent that this method of cleaning will have to be improved considerably or else it will not have any advantage at all.

On account of these results we have decided that for the present at least we will ask for the balance of

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of our shipment in form of your regular tubes, these to be cleaned and evacuated by ourselves. We continue to hope that eventually we may be able to avoid this work ourselves.

Reference is made in the report to the desirability of our having a container in which 40 ml. of sample can be taken. Not only do we want these for the collection of fresh samples of blood from which the plasma is to be removed, but also we need the larger sample for certain special items of work such as those on which analyses are to be made for mercury. We expect to obtain a series of samples for mercury analyses in the near future and we should be glad to have a limited supply of these at an early date, if that is favorable. It seems likely to us that others will wish to have containers of similar volume, and therefore it may well be to your advantage to be able to supply them as standard equipment.

Very truly yours,

RAK:rms

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.

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