

August 9, 1940

Mr. I. Dent Jenkins
Personnel Manager
Harrison Radiator Division
General Motors Corporation
Lockport, Illinois

Dear Mr. Jenkins:

Your point with respect to the possibility of doing the blood examinations at your Lockport plant is well taken, and there is no reason which I can see why this can not be done satisfactorily. The method of staining which we are using permits us to examine smears which have been made as far in advance as thirty days. My associates who examine men in various parts of the country do not have laboratory facilities for staining and examining the smears. They take them in duplicate, therefore, and bring them back to the laboratory on their return from a trip which may take as long as a month. We have experienced little or no difficulty in the examination of these smears and we have frequently checked blood films retained without staining for variable periods of time here in the laboratory, and we do not find that the results are changed in any way by this lapse of time.

I can not vouch for the satisfactory quality of this type of work in connection with other stains. My impression is that Wright's stain will work equally as well but perhaps you realize that the things which one sees as the result of staining are somewhat artificially produced, and are the result of certain characteristics of cells in combination with certain characteristics of a specific stain. The matter would have to be tested, therefore, but this could be done with very little difficulty.

In the preparation of films for delayed staining, we do not use any fixative. That is, we do not dip the film in alcohol or any other chemical compound, nor do we subject it to heat. We merely let it dry quickly in air and then pack the dried films in such a way that they have no opportunity to stick to each other. These films should be exposed as little as

little as possible to any abnormal vapor in the air and, of course, must be kept clean and free of dust. With these simple precautions, I feel quite sure you will be able to obtain satisfactory results. For your own protection, however, I would suggest a few control observations, comparing films made and stained immediately, with films from the same person taken at the same time which are permitted to stand for variable periods of time before staining. I suggest this since it will protect you in terms of your own experience against criticism which would otherwise be made of your technique in litigation or compensation hearings.

Sincerely yours,

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Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.