Dr. F. W. Spaar  
Max-Planck-Institut für Hirnforschung  
Friedrichstrasse 24  
Giessen, Germany

Dear Dr. Spaar:

I hasten to reply to your letter of May 9 about B virus. I deeply regret that I no longer have any spare reprints of my published studies on B virus. Enclosed, however, is a bibliography of the various publications.

With regard to your second question as to whether or not B virus infection is identical with what in Germany is called "Krankheit der Affenwärter" I must confess that I don't know because I have never seen any description of the latter condition. The pathology of B virus infection in experimentally inoculated monkeys is described in one of the publications listed in the bibliography. We have no evidence at this time that this virus localizes in the nervous systems of monkeys under natural conditions. The chief difference between the experimental histopathology of B virus and poliomyelitis infections is that B virus attacks the meninges as well as all kinds of neurones in the cortex and elsewhere in the nervous system after intracerebral inoculation and is not selective in the manner of poliomyelitis virus. In monkeys that are sacrificed at the appropriate time after intracerebral inoculation, characteristic acidophilic intranuclear inclusions of the Type A variety can be found. I don't know about the relative susceptibility of rhesus and cynomolgus monkeys but the important thing is that the monkey should not have been naturally infected before it is used for experimental purposes. This is determined by testing the serum for neutralizing antibodies. In the two human cases which occurred after accidental infection I found that the localization in the nervous system was highly localized, particularly in the posterior horns of the spinal cord with more limited involvement of the anterior horn cells. There were no lesions in the meninges except a small number of inflammatory cells and the localization of the lesions strongly suggested invasion by the regional nerves from the site of injury on the fingers. Although the second fatal case occurred in 1949 I have somehow not had the time to write it up in detail and the only record of it is contained in the abstract mentioned in the last reference of the bibliography.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Albert B. Sabin, M.D.

ABS/jsb

Encl: bibliography.