Dear Dr. Sabin:

I was very pleased to receive your letter of 28 January in which you discussed the data on the recent epidemic in Korea. Unfortunately, I cannot agree with you on a number of items and I shall comment on the various points on which we disagree.

While you were speaking of neutralization indexes, I was enunciating in generalized terms because of the preliminary nature of results at that time. Now, and with specific reference to results of data obtained on our return trip to Korea in which positive complement fixation tests were observed in 5 out of 25 horses and in 6 of 14 swine, on this basis, it is my considered opinion that a prevalent dissemination of the Japanese B encephalitis virus during the season of 1949 did occur.

Needless to say, in numerous reports which have been published, the transitory nature of complement-fixing antibodies together with isolation of the etiologic agent has been used as a positive criteria in epidemiological considerations of current viral infections.

With regard to the galley proof of your paper, "Status and Significance of Inapparent Infection with Virus of Japanese B encephalitis in Korea and Okinawa in 1946", may I hasten to advise you that the paragraph, reading, "It should be pointed out here that no placental transfer of antibody occurs among pigs...", is questionable as to its scientific basis in fact.

A specific example to the contrary, and one directly applicable, is in hog cholera viral immunity. Here the placental transfer of passive immunity to pigs born of immune mothers is so well established that complete protection is afforded the offspring for a number of weeks. Furthermore, it has been demonstrated to be a scientific and economic fact that normal animals are not vaccinated prior to 4 months of age because of their known natal immunity.

In connection with this thought, we are planning an experiment in non immune pigs to determine the intrinsic incubation period of either
the apparent or inapparent infection together with the demonstration of viremia. Further, we have found pigs to be extremely susceptible to artificial infection with the virus of Japanese B encephalitis and plan to expose pregnant animals with a view of determining among other things, the presence and duration of passive immunity afforded the offspring. Perhaps you were cognizant of the fact that we were able to isolate three strains of a neurotropic agent from pigs born prematurely during the 1948 epidemic whose immunological relationship is similar to, if not identical with, the virus of Japanese B encephalitis.

With regard to publications on the Korean outbreak, you can be assured that we will use only the corrected data which you have presented.

I am very grateful for the opportunity of being able to discuss these problems with you and would appreciate it very much if you will call attention to any controversial problems which might appear in the inclosed draft of my latest paper which has been forwarded to the Surgeon General's Office for approval prior to publication. At your convenience, please return the manuscript.

Trusting you are in the best of health and with kindest personal regards, I remain

Sincerely,

[Signature]
KENNETH F. BURNS
Major, VC
Section Chief