June 18, 1941

My dear John Toomey:

With regard to your letter of June 16 I would like to say that you are at liberty to quote our results on feeding of monkeys as a personal communication except that the sentence as you have it does not quite represent what we did. Actually our Cynomolgi received not only bananas which had been contaminated with virus but also consumed 2 to 4 cc. of a heavy suspension of virus by sucking it out of a pipette. Since I saw you last we have had at least 5 and possibly 6 monkeys which developed typical poliomyelitis after such feeding. The important thing, however, will be not the fact that they succumb but rather the evidence we hope to accumulate with regard to the pathways by which the infection occurs.

I might say now that in at least one of these monkeys we have found the olfactory bulbs to contain lesions and virus but we also know now that the course of events in Cynomolgus monkeys which are fed virus of recent human origin is not merely a matter of contamination of the olfactory mucosa and is certainly different from that which obtains in Rhesus monkeys infected with M.V. virus. It might also interest you to know that in a preliminary experiment on 5 Cynomolgi similar feeding was unsuccessful when M.V. virus was used.

As you may recall we are rather interested in obtaining a certain number of human poliomyelitis necropsies this year and while I remember that there are certain difficulties in your set-up in Cleveland I would, nevertheless, like to ask you to let me know by telephone (collect) whenever the situation would permit my coming up to carry out such an autopsy. I would use chiefly the tissues of the alimentary canal and it may not interfere with other structures which you might desire to obtain from the same case.

With best wishes,

As ever,

Albert B. Sabin, M.D.

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