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28 December 1949

Dr. John R. Paul
The Commission on Virus and
Rickettsial Diseases
333 Cedar Street
New Haven 11, Connecticut

Dear John:

Returned herewith you find the two manuscripts by Major Burns et al. My comments are the following:

1. In the paper entitled, "Antibody Response in Military Personnel Following Japanese B Encephalitis Vaccination with Lyophilized Chick Embryo Type Vaccine," it is my impression that Tables 2-A, 3-A and 4-A are confusing and unnecessary in view of the more significant presentation of the same data in Tables 2-B, 3-B and 4-B.

2. In the manuscript entitled, "Antibody Response in Japanese Children Following Japanese B Encephalitis Vaccination with Lyophilized Chick Embryo Type Vaccine," I would regard it as much more advisable that the authorship be Matumoto, Kitaoka and Burns, in view of the existing situation with which we are all familiar and which you have described. I am sure that Major Burns is big enough to take it, particularly in view of the fact that the data, while worthwhile, can certainly not be regarded as either an original or significant contribution to science.

3. However, I must also say that it is my understanding that additional tests similar to those described in these communications were also carried out in 1948 and 1949. Furthermore, it is my understanding that the results were not quite the same. I do not see any advantage in publishing this work in dribbles. I would regard it as much more desirable to publish the combined studies of 1947, 1948 and 1949. I can see no great hurry or indication for early publication of these data. It would be my recommendation, therefore, that these manuscripts not be published in their present form, and that instead the combined experience of the three years be written up for publication.

With regard to your question, the tests that I had done showing a more favorable response to Japanese B vaccine by children than by adults were carried out on Japanese people. However, I also published other experiments on Americans in which a more favorable response to the same vaccine was observed in individuals 18 to 35 years of age than in those 36 to 56 years of age.

With all good wishes for the New Year,

Sincerely yours,

ABS:mjc

Albert B. Sabin, M. D.