

January 20, 1947

Medical Director John F. Mahoney
Staten Island V. D. Research Laboratory
U. S. Marine Hospital
Staten Island 4, New York

Dear Dr. Mahoney:

Today we are beginning our program of prophylaxis for all contacts that take place at the penitentiary. In doing so we shall use placebo thus accustoming the inmates to the use of prophylaxis so there will be no difficulty in carrying on with our own compound at the proper time. As time has gone on, it has become apparent that we do not have adequate space in which to work at the penitentiary. We have been using the dispensary there for all of our activities and in so doing have been continuously in the way of the physicians and of the inmate nurses carrying on the routine work. They have been more than cooperative so that we have had no difficulty whatsoever. The other day in a conference with the Colonel, Dr. Spoto suggested that we could provide the funds to build a small room for office next door to the quarters which are now being constructed for the use of the prostitutes visiting the prison, in that way we should have adequate space to do physical examinations and to do all of our prophylactic work. The cost of such a room will be about \$600 and can be built rather rapidly as a part of their program of construction. If we are to work satisfactorily at the prison we all feel that we need this space and as soon as you have approved we shall give the word to go ahead.

We should like to know how soon Miss Walker will be able to come as we shall be able to start on the program of study of gonorrhea just as soon as she can begin her work. We are finding a large number of what appear to be false positive reactions in the prison and we are likewise finding a fair amount of primary, secondary and latent syphilis within the prison population. We are carrying on a treatment program within the prison using Penicillin for the early cases; for the later cases we are using either penicillin or arsenic. Thus far we have found a very ready acceptance of our group both on the part of the prison officials and on the part of the inmates which we think stems from the fact that we now have given them a program of care for venereal disease which they have lacked in the past. Thus we feel that our treatment program is worthwhile and fully justified.

Respectfully forwarded:

Joseph S. Spoto
Chief, Caribbean Sector

Sincerely yours,

John C. Cutler
S.A. Surgeon, USPHS



OFFICE OF DIRECTOR
VENEREAL DISEASE RESEARCH LABORATORY
U. S. MARINE HOSPITAL

FEDERAL SECURITY AGENCY
U. S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK



June 30, 1947

Sr. Asst. Surgeon John C. Cutler
Sanidad Publica
Sur 7, 15 Calle Oriente
Guatemala City, Guatemala

Dear John:

Your letter of June 22nd came in today. We were all more than sorry to hear of Doctor Spoto's departure but we feel sure that he will be happier in the States under existing circumstances. We hope that we will be able to function with Dr. McAnally. He seems to be a very nice person.

The question of income tax opens a matter in regard to which I am rather helpless. We have asked some friends in the Internal Revenue Department to give us the benefit of any good advice. Possibly they may have an "angle" through which some relief from the tax burden may be effected. We will be more than glad to make any administrative move toward that end which is legally possible.

In regard to the amount of gossip which the work in Guatemala has engendered, we are doing our utmost here to restrict our own conversations and those of others bearing upon the matter. We have also been aware of considerable conversation and discussion being carried out in rather high places, much of which has not helped the work greatly. We are forwarding all of your reports to Doctor Heller in a way which we hope will prevent their being read by unauthorized persons. I will write him again in the matter.

I hope that you will not hesitate to stop the experimental work in the event of there being an undue amount of interest in that phase of the study. It would be preferable to delay the work than to risk the development of an antagonistic atmosphere.

We are anxiously awaiting your report of the transmission experiments utilizing contact only. This is of vital importance if we are to carry out the studies outlined.

I have never met Doctor Soper. You will have to be guided by your own impressions as to freedom in discussing the work. He is the responsible official of the study and as such is entitled to complete confidence.


Sr. Asst. Surgeon John C. Cutler

June 30, 1947

The use of volunteer groups rather than the type which is being employed would be more than satisfactory. Our budget will stand for almost any fee for volunteers which you consider to be advisable. Doctor Arnold will take the necessary steps to keep you supplied with animals. I will also arrange for the cuniculi material to be sent to you.

We are arranging for a P-4 rating for Portnoy. We encountered the usual amount of delay in the matter but all appears to be in order at the moment.

Sincerely,


J. F. Mahoney
Medical Director
USPHS

JFM:tcw

May 17, 1947

John F. Mahoney, Medical Director
Director, V. D. Research Laboratory
Staten Island 4, New York

Dear Dr. Mahoney:

During the last two weeks many things have been happening, the most important of which has been the beginning of the study at the Asylum. On Tuesday, May 13, we applied the emulsion for a period of one hour, moistening the pledget of cotton at the frenum every fifteen minutes. Seven of the patients received no further treatment, seven were given the treatment with Dr. Arnold's preparation and no additional, seven received an injection subcutaneously of .1cc in addition to the local application. On Wednesday, May 14, at the penitentiary we performed a series of subcutaneous injections of .2cc of fresh emulsion. Eighteen patients were inoculated, approximately half had positive cardiolipin and half had negative cardiolipin. We are observing the patients very carefully and shall have complete clinical and serologic follow-up on all of them.

On Friday, May the 9th, we performed another experiment inoculating six patients with pus and treating three of them. As of May 15, one of the controls showed positive culture, the second showed considerable discharge with extra-cellular organisms, while the third shows considerable discharge which is microscopically negative thus far. That reminds me of the patients at Terre Haute some of whom showed such a discharge for a few days before we were able to make the diagnosis, while others might show for a few days after inoculation extra or intra cellular organisms but remain culturally negative and not develop the infection. None of the treated patients thus far shows any evidence of a take.

We have had the first success with the normal exposure with one patient of six showing positive results. This patient was from a group exposed May 5 all of whom received alcohol prior to the exposure. We shall have to repeat this both with and without alcohol. The group of sixteen exposures on May 3 have shown to date no clinical evidence in spite of the fact that the sources showed positive cultures for at least two weeks prior to May the 3rd as well as positive cultures both before and after exposure. It is true that the actual length of time of each exposure is rather short, from two to seven minutes so that the length of exposure may not be sufficient. However it suggests that the normal

John F. Mahoney, Medical Director

May 17, 1947

rate of infection may be rather low. We shall continue both the normal and artificial method of exposure in an effort to continue evaluation of the method and to determine the normal infection rate.

In the same issue of the New York Times in which Neurath's work was reported was a little note about the work on the prevention of syphilis in rabbits by small doses of penicillin. It went on to speculate on the method of proving his hypothesis in humans and said, "that such work could not ethically be carried out" (as I remember the quotation). Then in the Journal of the American Medical Association appeared a notice about the grant to the Pan American Sanitary Bureau for the study of syphilis. It is becoming just as clear to us as it appears to be to you that it would not be advisable to have too many people concerned with this work in order to keep down talk and premature writing. I hope that it would be possible to keep the work strictly in your hands without necessity for outside advisors or workers other than those who fit into your program and who can be trusted not to talk. We are just a little bit concerned about the possibility of having anything said about our program that would adversely affect its continuation.

Sincerely,

John G. Outler
S.A. Surgeon, USPHS

Respectfully forwarded:

Joseph S. Spete
Chief, Caribbean Sector