

27th. April 1949.

My dear Rob,

Thanks for sending me the excerpt from Diamond's letter with the other material. Of course I had seen and have a printed copy of Wiener's outburst, which I felt was better left unanswered so far as English workers were concerned. I had also read with pleasure the English version of your paper in the Revue d'Hematologie, which appeared to me to be just right in perspective and emphasis.

On rereading Wiener's paper with the points made by Diamond in mind, I think that it would be of service to the advancement of knowledge if he did care to make a statement for the B.M.J. dissociating himself from Wiener's point of view. Of course I do not think it would be worth anybody's while to take up and reargue Wiener's case point by point, for it is clear that most of his points are phoney in the sense of being introduced merely to obscure the issue. His opening paragraph on the population and family evidence supposedly supporting a multiple allele theory is an example of this, since these facts would be exactly the same whether the Rhesus system were determined at three loci or one. The only group of facts capable of drawing this theoretical distinction are such crossover cases of which the first was adduced by Norman Glass, and Wiener's method of dealing

with this adverse evidence is to assume, so far as can be seen without the faintest foundation, that the child is illegitimate ("is merely an illegitimate child").

All this discussion, however, of one locus or three is a fictitious dispute invented to disguise the fact that Wiener failed to discover, and for long fought against the recognition of, the serological system which is now seen to involve three antigens received from each parent. This was the essential advance in your note of 1944, adopted now by Wiener after he had most strenuously opposed every prediction made at that time, all of which have now in turn been confirmed.

I am sure in any case that Diamond would do what is needed exceedingly well, and that the B.M.J. would be glad to print a letter from him.

Yours sincerely,