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## AUSTRALIA ANTIBODY SERUM

I from the above company visited [redacted] and myself to discuss the production and price of the serum. [redacted] have been supplying the serum for screening both paid and unpaid (Red Cross) donors for Australia antigen as routine for the past eleven months, covering 250,000 donations.

The antibody is usually supplied freeze dried (the antigen is also available in this form) and is suitable for testing by complement fixation, counter current electro phoresis and immuno diffusion techniques.

The potency of the serum was said to be four times stronger than any they know of. They are working on new techniques in haemagglutination to accurately determine potency of the serum in a standardised way.

The price per ml. of the serum is £1.4. It cannot be accurately assessed how many test this will do since the level of antigen we wish to detect has not been clarified; the dilution without this information will depend upon the individual haematologist. [redacted] said he would provide samples for pilot projects at one or two chosen centres and would bring from Austria some technical and clinical people to discuss this if necessary. The price per ml. for a large order would be reduced depending on contract size.

[redacted] said clinicians have noticed a considerable reduction in Hepatitis since the introduction of screening, the results will be published in 1971.

We have 1,300,000 donation per year increasing at 5% p.a. Since screening of some medical and laboratory staff may be necessary some 2,000,000 tests may need to be done.

10<sup>th</sup> November 1970

C.C.